MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
THE MIGHTY THOR®
VOLUME 9

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 173-183

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

WITH JOHN BUSCEMA & NEAL ADAMS

MARVEL

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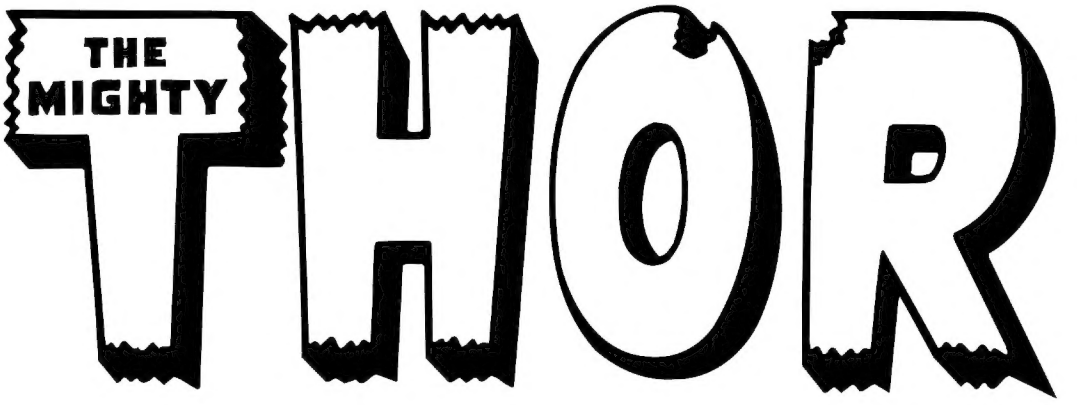
PRESENTS



VOLUME 9

COLLECTING

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 173-183

STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY

WITH JOHN BUSCEMA & NEAL ADAMS

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MARVEL MASTERWORKS
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THE
MIGHTY THOR
Nos. 173-183

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John Buscema (Nos. 178, 182, 183)
Neal Adams (Nos. 180, 181)

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INTRODUCTION
BY WILL MURRAY

Jack Kirby was once asked, out of all the groundbreaking features he drew at Marvel, which was his favorite. No doubt the audience expected him to name the flagship Fantastic Four, or his 1940s breakout feature, Captain America.

Instead, he said, "My favorite comic to draw with Marvel? Oh, I got a kick out of doing the Thor legend."

Head writer and editor Stan Lee recalled the impetus for Marvel's Mighty Thor as:

"We were getting a thousand letters a week from frantic Marvelites demanding more, more, more!" Lee told the *Chicago Tribune* in 1975. "All of us in the Bullpen were carried along by an ever-mounting wave of enthusiasm, not to mention a healthy helping of greed. The only hero I could top the others with was Super-God! In lieu of that, I decided to feature gods. Thor, God of Thunder, was perfect. I liked the sound of the name."

Both collaborators claimed to have loved the legend of Thor since childhood. But he needed to be updated for the 1960s.

"Before starting the series," Lee revealed in one issue, "we stuffed ourselves to the gills with Norse mythology, as well as almost every other type of mythology—we love it all! But, you've got to remember that these are legendary tales—myths—and no two versions are ever exactly the same. We changed a lot of things—for example, in most of the myths Thor has red hair, Odin has one eye, etc. But, we preferred doing our own version."

Kirby concurred. "Thor I gave a futuristic costume," he explained. "He hasn't got a Norseman's costume—it's reminiscent of a Norseman's costume, but he can wear that costume in 2085 if he wants to and get away with it."

Marvel produced Thor for the better part of seven years. Lee and Kirby had steered the God of Thunder from his earliest days as a lead super hero feature in *Journey into Mystery* through of the transitional "Trial of the Gods" sequence, to the multipart Ragnarok saga in his own magazine. But all great things must come to an end, and with this present Thor *Masterworks* volume, we reprint a different Twilight of the Gods—the winding down of the Lee-Kirby era of Thor.

As it evolved, Thor was a schizophrenic strip, freewheeling between Dr. Donald Blake's adventures as an earthbound mortal who transforms into the mythical Thunder God to fight crime and a more exalted Thor who is more at home beyond the Rainbow Bridge than in earthly Midgard.

"That was my idea," Lee noted. "I thought the concept of a Norse God having adventures on Earth in the present was an interesting one and, also, it was to make sure that the readers might not get bored with too much Asgard stuff. I felt it would add a nice bit of variety to the series."

Kirby did not disagree. "I researched it and gave my version of it. Stan humanized it in a way where, for instance, I might be concerned about Thor's relation to the other gods. I might bring up a Ulik or I might bring up something out of the wild blue yonder, like the Orikal—that great big thing which nobody knew anything about. I tried to fathom it myself. And Stan would come down to earth and find Thor's relationship with earth people. In other words, we go up and down the spectrum always trying to find something new in it…"

The transition took place during the "Trial of the Gods sequence in 1965, simultaneous with Thor's exit from The Avengers. Up until them, Thor's half-brother Loki had been tricked out in a wonderfully over-the-top horned outfit befitting his mythological identity as a trickster god of mischief. Thor usually got the better of him without hardly trying.

"In the vast panoply of legendary menaces," Lee once wrote, "surely none has ever been as totally devious and diabolical as that very name Loki, Thor's half brother. According to the great Norse myths that have lived through the ages, Loki has primarily been known as the God of Mischief. But we at Marvel took the liberty of altering that myth a little. To us, Loki is, was and always will be the supreme embodiment of all that is despicable and deadly in man or godling. To us, he'll always be the God of Evil! And to me personally, he'll always be one of my favorite villains."

In "Trial of the Gods," a wrathful Odin summons both rivals to Asgard and forces then to settle their differences man to man. Leading up to this pivotal development, Kirby redesigned Loki's apparel into a more subdued yet sinister armor befitting his new role as pretender to the throne. This is Loki's "dark prince" phase. And never was he more dangerous.

Stan Lee once explained Loki's inner motivations this way:

"One reason I chose the leering Loki to be the Thunder God's main antagonist is because it was possible to give him so compelling a motive for hating Thor and for continually plotting his brother's downfall. The jealousy of one prince for another! Sibling rivalry between two gods! Those are motives that anyone can accept and understand, motives worthy of ancient Greek drama, or enduring Shakespearean tragedy—or Marvel Comics!"

This volume opens with Loki up to his old schemes, and back in his original longhorn outfit, this time siccing Ulik the Troll on Thor. It's only a warm-up for the main event.

After a interval wherein Stan and Jack produce a typical human interest story,

"The Challenge of the Crypto-Man!", it's back to Norse plot and counterplot as an unabashed God of Evil finally achieves his ultimate ambition, seizing Odin's throne in "The Fall of Asgard!"

Backing up the Thunder God are his warrior companions from the old "Tales of Asgard" backup strip, Fandral the Dashing, Hogun the Grim and the comical Volstagg—supplemented by Balder the Brave and Thor's love interest, the swordswoman Sif.

Both Lee and Kirby remembered drawing from the same well in creating the non-Norse Warriors Three.

"I drew them from Shakespearean figures," Kirby recalled. "I combined Shakespearean figures with the Three Musketeers and came up with these three friends who supplemented Thor and his company, and this is the way I kept these strips going by creative little steps like that."

Lee remembered his influences as, "I specifically remember that I did them because I wanted a Falstaff-type guy, a guy like Errol Flynn, and then I wanted a guy like Charles Bronson who was dire and gloomy, riddled with angst."

As if setting the stage for the final act, Loki dons a more regal panoply as ruler of the Eternal Realm—and longtime Thor inker Vince Colletta returns, replacing Bill Everett's brilliant inks in the saga's second chapter, "Inferno!" wherein Surtur the Fire Demon is again unleashed.

Something very strange happened in *Thor* #178, dated July 1970. Kirby takes an issue off. In reality, he's pitching in on *The Silver Surfer*, then faltering under Lee and artist John Buscema. While Kirby vainly attempts to salvage the Surfer's fortunes, Buscema carries Thor through a fill-in story featuring the Stranger and the Abomination—two foes new to the feature.

It was unprecedented break in continuity. But with the next issue, Lee and Kirby reunite to pick up the unresolved threads of the latest Thor-Loki conflict. This time, Loki—wearing yet another new suit of armor—has hatched a scheme so diabolical that Thor has no defense against it.

"No More the Thunder God!" open with a splash that's suggestive of Kirby's waning attitude toward the strip—Thor and his companions ride under an arch composed of fallen Asgardian warrior statues. Their defeated postures may be revealing of the artist's intention to leave Asgard, and Marvel, in the past.

In mid-sequence, with the Thor-Loki struggle suffering a bizarre twist, Kirby abandons Thor to take on the challenge of a different pantheon, leaving the Thunder God in the worst lurch of his career.

The Neal Adams cover presages strange changes, as Lee and Adams resolves the sequence in two parts. Adams' realistic approach is a severe jolt after Kirby's glorious run. Everyone concerned must have realized it. Just as fast as he appears, Adams disappears. But he would soon revisit Thor in the pages of *The Avengers*.

"My intention with those two *Thors* was to do 'Marvel Comic Books,' so Marvel that you couldn't tell if John Buscema or John Romita did it." Adams told *Comic Book Artist*. A scene in issue #180 depicting Thor's hammer smashing a Kirby Lee sign signals Thor will never again be the same.

After Adams, John Buscema returns for another shot at Thor. It's not difficult to figure out why Lee chose him to carry the Asgardian ball. Early in his Silver Surfer run, he executed a spectacular Lee story pitting the Surfer against The Thunder God. He was a natural.

"I loved Thor when it was in Asgard," Buscema admitted. "You see, I hate drawing cars and buildings, airplanes, civilians. But when he was up in Asgard, I liked that freedom. I could do any kind of building I wanted to draw. I love drawing horses and I love doing costumes and there's a tremendous freedom there which I loved. Once you bring him back to New York, I hated it."

Once again, Lee and Buscema reach outside of Thor's past for a worthy antagonist, pitting Thor against the Fantastic Four's Dr. Doom in Latveria. This is only the beginning on an incredible 80 issue run, which will rival the Lee-Kirby period.

But first, let us carry you through Lee and Kirby's final tour de force turn weaving Norse myth into Marvel magic.

As Lee reminisced, "I always thought (and still think) Thor was one of our best creations—and it's hard to think of anything that will ever top Jack's magnificent depictions of Asgard and the gods."

2010

Will Murray has been called the Indiana Jones of pulp fiction and popular culture research for his innumerable articles on subjects as diverse as H.P. Lovecraft and Big Nose Serrano. The author of over 50 books and novels in series ranging from Doc Savage to The Destroyer, he has written prose stories starring Spider-Man, Ant-Man, and The Hulk for various Marvel anthologies, as well as other classic characters, including Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, The Phantom, The Spider, The Avenger, and The Green Hornet. His novel Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.: Empyre, *published in 2000, eerily anticipated the operational details of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. A Marvel comics reader since 1962, Murray co-created, with artist Steve Ditko, the most powerful mutant in the current Marvel Universe, the unbeatable Squirrel Girl. He is also the literary agent for the estate of Lester Dent, creator of Doc Savage.*

THOR
15¢
173
FEB
THE MIGHTY
THOR
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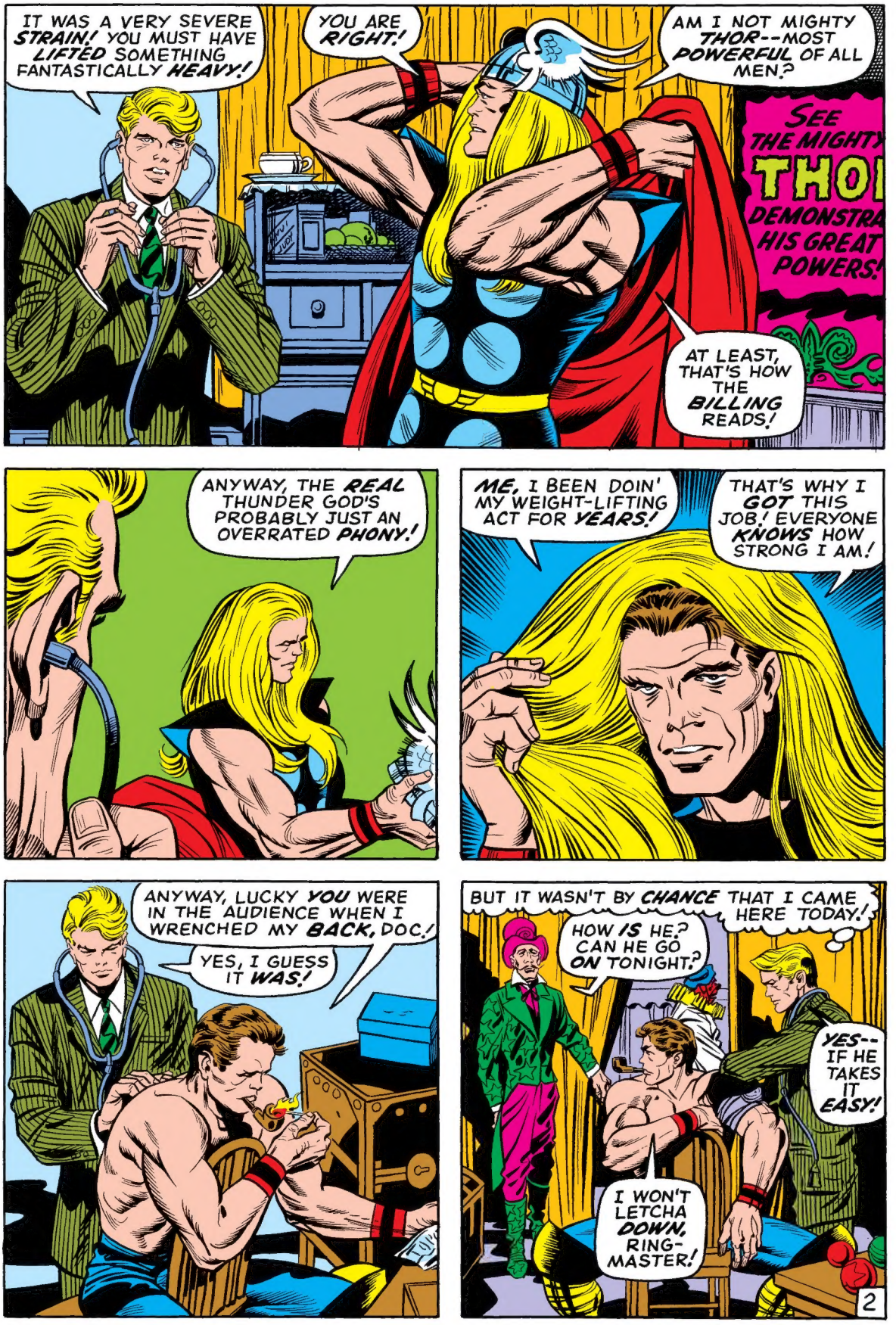
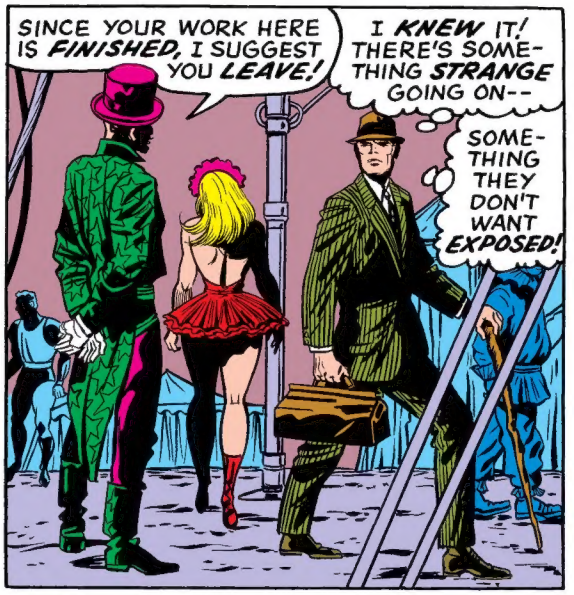
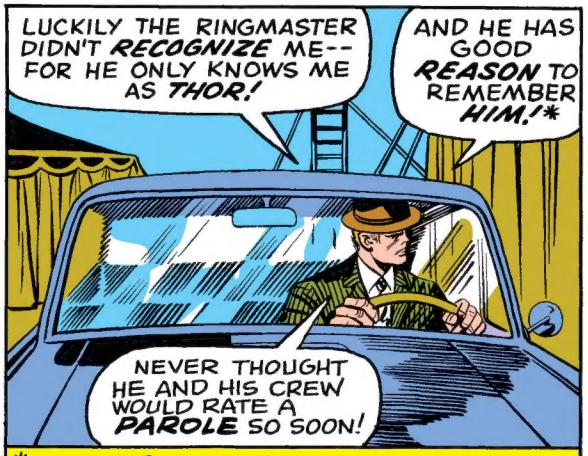
KIRBY/VERPOORTEN
ULIK
UNLEASHED!

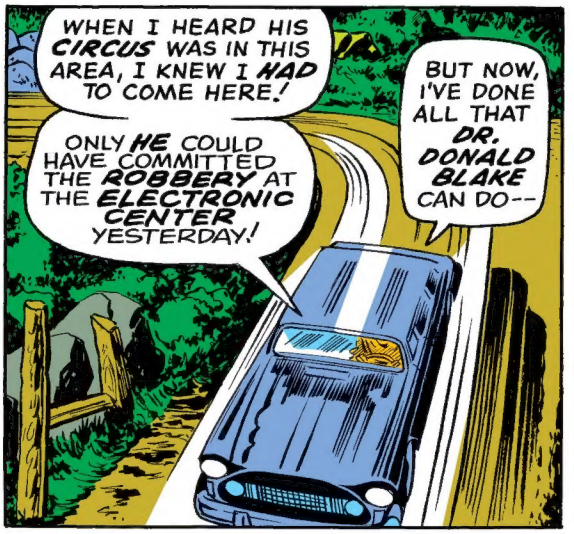
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
ULIK UNLEASHED!
FEATURING: THE RETURN OF THE RINGMASTER AND HIS DEADLY CIRCUS OF CRIME!
FEELING BETTER NOW, THOR?
YES, DOCTOR BLAKE!
MY BACK NO LONGER PAINS ME!
555 LBS.
PRODUCED BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
INKING:
BILL EVERETT
LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK

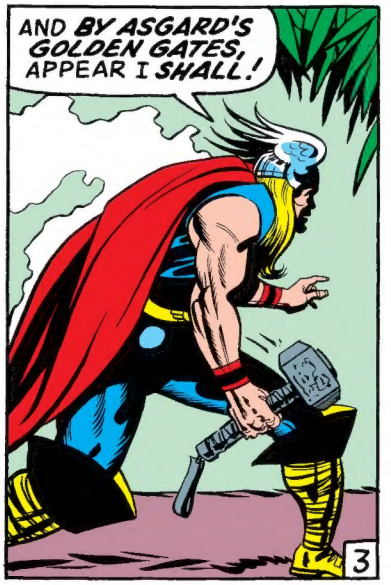

IT WAS A VERY SEVERE STRAIN! YOU MUST HAVE LIFTED SOMETHING FANTASTICALLY HEAVY!
YOU ARE RIGHT!
AM I NOT MIGHTY THOR--MOST POWERFUL OF ALL MEN?
SEE THE MIGHTY THOR DEMONSTRATE HIS GREAT POWERS!
AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW THE BILLING READS!
ANYWAY, THE REAL THUNDER GOD'S PROBABLY JUST AN OVERRATED PHONY!
ME, I BEEN DOIN' MY WEIGHT-LIFTING ACT FOR YEARS!
THAT'S WHY I GOT THIS JOB! EVERYONE KNOWS HOW STRONG I AM!
ANYWAY, LUCKY YOU WERE IN THE AUDIENCE WHEN I WRENCHED MY BACK, DOC!
YES, I GUESS IT WAS!
BUT IT WASN'T BY CHANCE THAT I CAME HERE TODAY!
HOW IS HE? CAN HE GO ON TONIGHT?
YES-- IF HE TAKES IT EASY!
I WON'T LETCHA DOWN, RING-MASTER!
2

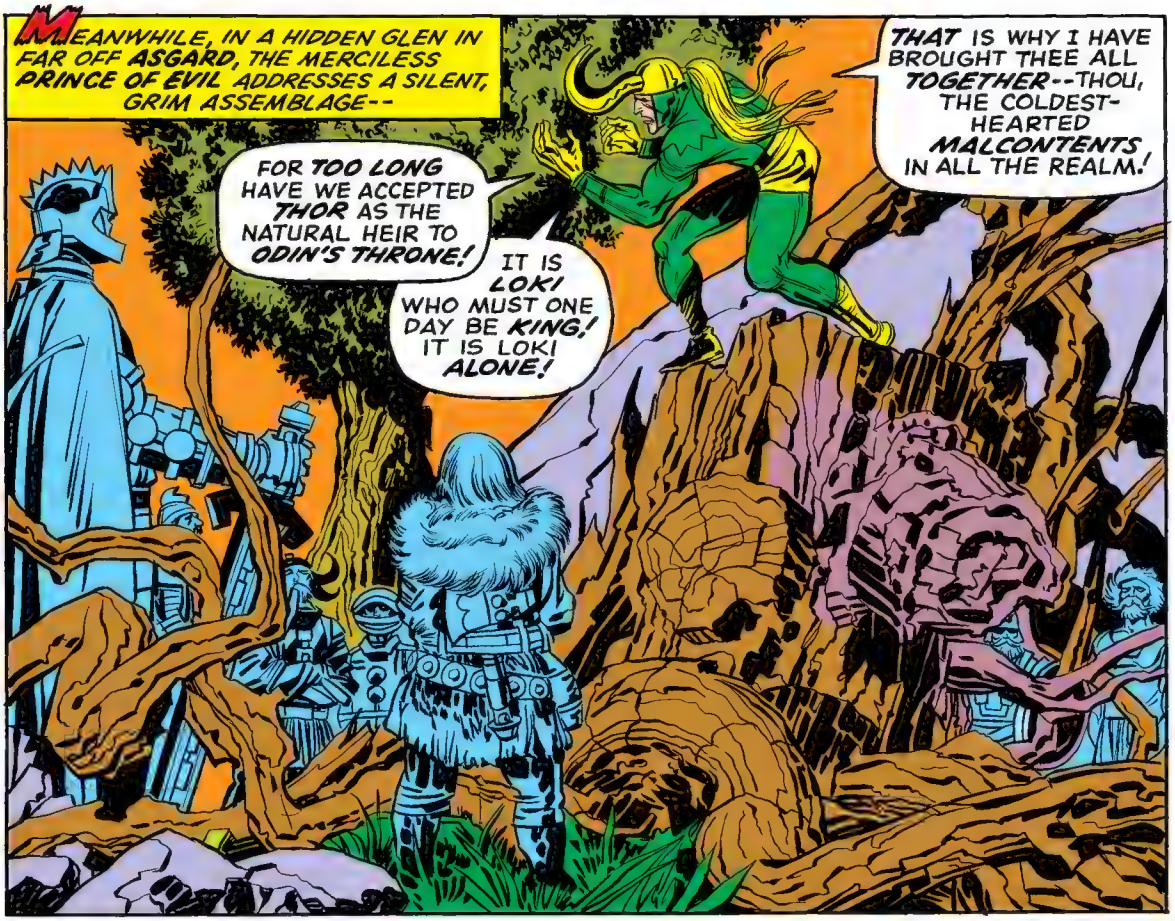

SINCE YOUR WORK HERE IS FINISHED, I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE!
I KNEW IT! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON--
SOMETHING THEY DON'T WANT EXPOSED!


LUCKILY THE RINGMASTER DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME--FOR HE ONLY KNOWS ME AS THOR!
AND HE HAS GOOD REASON TO REMEMBER HIM!*
NEVER THOUGHT HE AND HIS CREW WOULD RATE A PAROLE SO SOON!

*EVEN WE ALMOST FORGOT--SINCE IT HAPPENED 'WAY BACK IN ISSUES 145 AND 146--STAN.

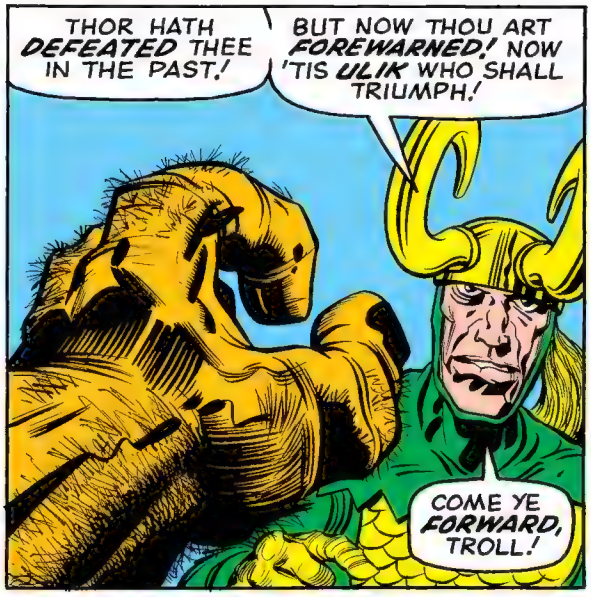

WHEN I HEARD HIS CIRCUS WAS IN THIS AREA, I KNEW I HAD TO COME HERE!
ONLY HE COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE ROBBERY AT THE ELECTRONIC CENTER YESTERDAY!
BUT NOW, I'VE DONE ALL THAT DR. DONALD BLAKE CAN DO--



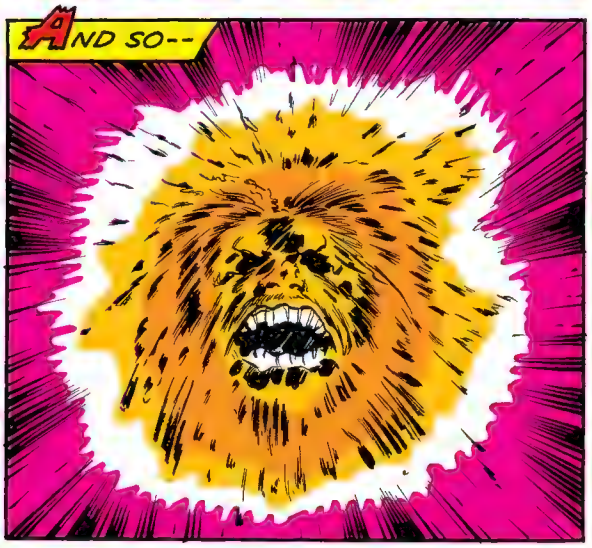

MEANWHILE, IN A HIDDEN GLEN IN FAR OFF ASGARD, THE MERCILESS PRINCE OF EVIL ADDRESSES A SILENT, GRIM ASSEMBLAGE--
FOR TOO LONG HAVE WE ACCEPTED THOR AS THE NATURAL HEIR TO ODIN'S THRONE!
IT IS LOKI WHO MUST ONE DAY BE KING! IT IS LOKI ALONE!
THAT IS WHY I HAVE BROUGHT THEE ALL TOGETHER--THOU, THE COLDEST-HEARTED MALCONTENTS IN ALL THE REALM!

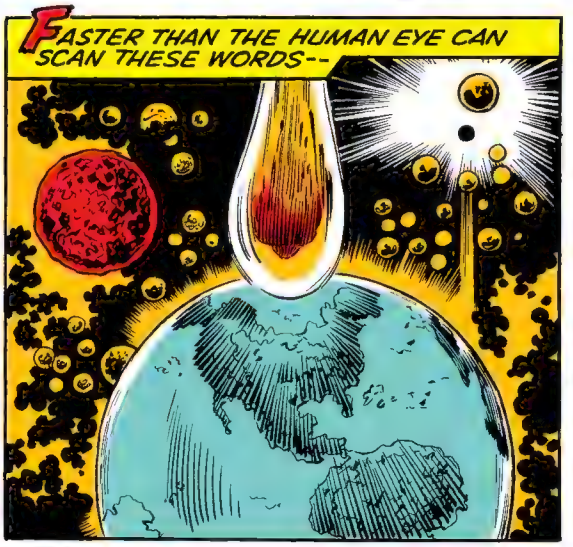
FOR YOU TO BE PRINCE APPARENT, THE THUNDER GOD MUST DIE!
AND ONLY ULIK, MIGHTIEST OF THE TROLLS, HAS THE POWER TO SLAY HIM!
AY! 'TIS WHY I SUMMONED THEE!

ULIK HAS NO USE FOR TALK! SEND ME TO THE SON OF ODIN!
WHEN THOR IS SLAIN, THEN WE WILL BE THE MASTERS!

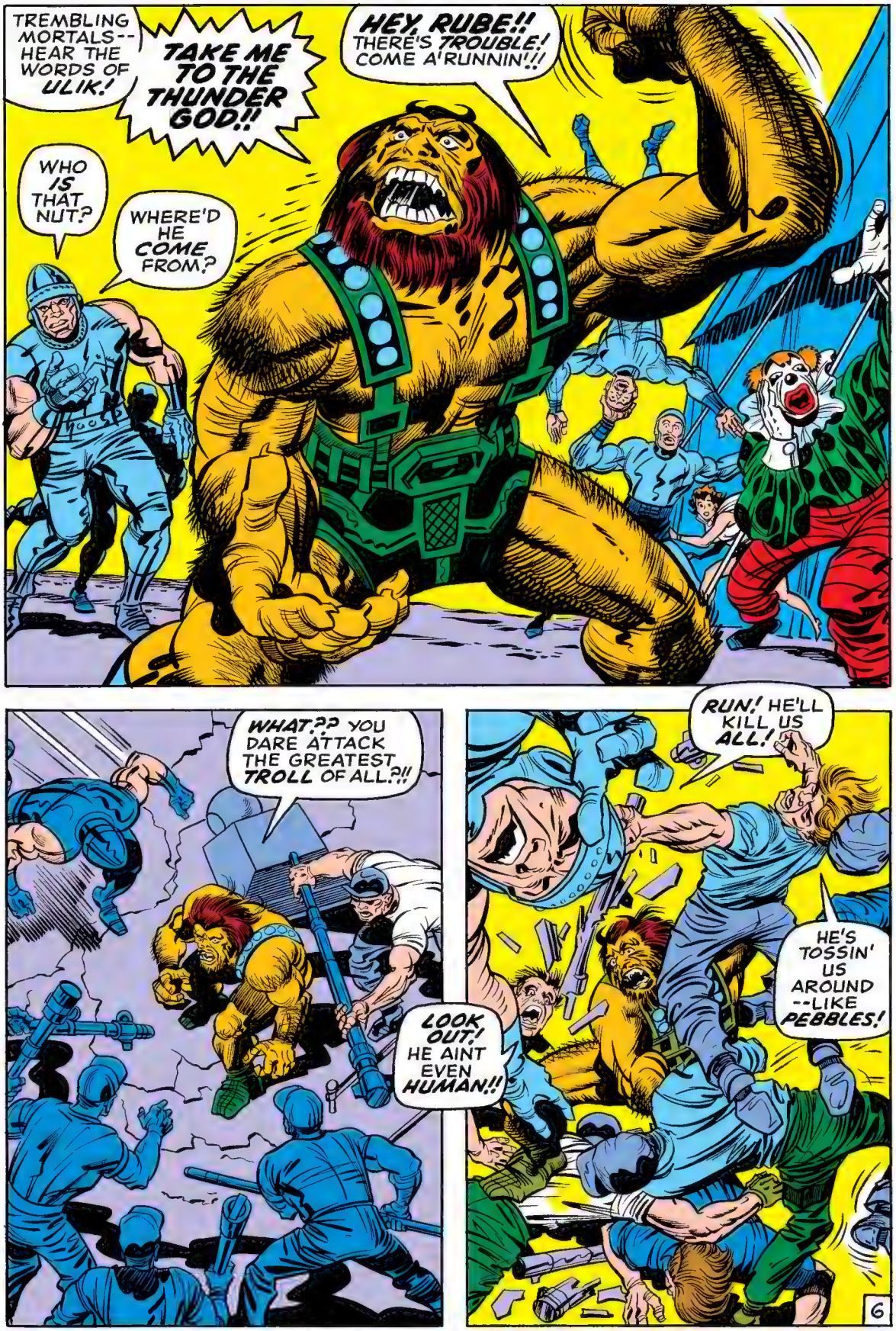

THOR HATH DEFEATED THEE IN THE PAST!
BUT NOW THOU ART FOREWARNED! NOW 'TIS ULIK WHO SHALL TRIUMPH!
COME YE FORWARD, TROLL!

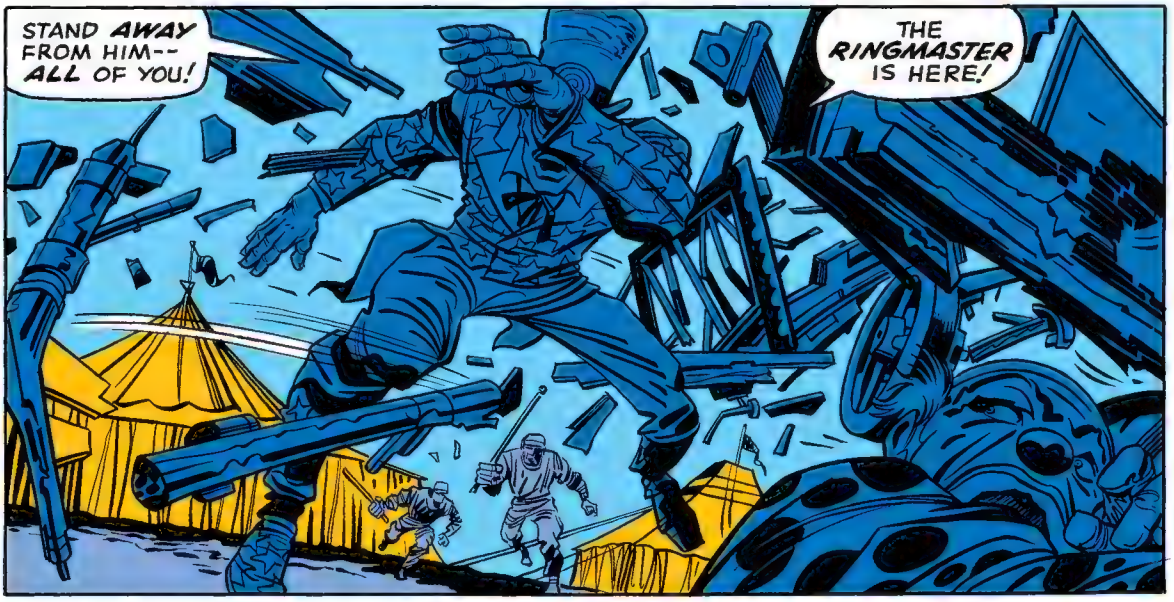
BY THE POWER OF ENCHANTMENT, I SEND THEE HENCE--
--TO THE PLACE WHERE THOR BE FOUND!

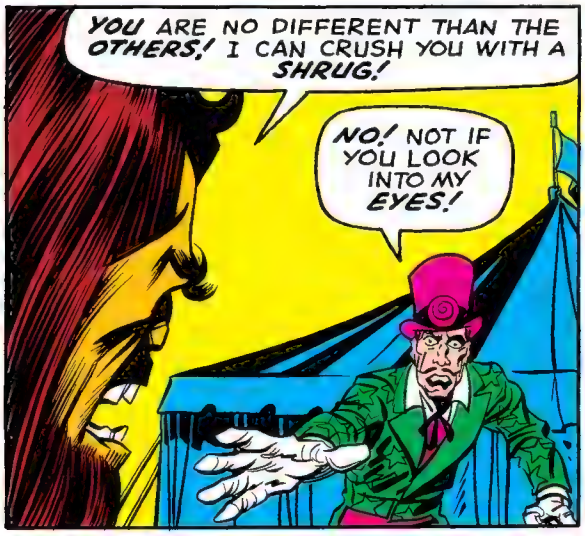

AND SO--


FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE CAN SCAN THESE WORDS--

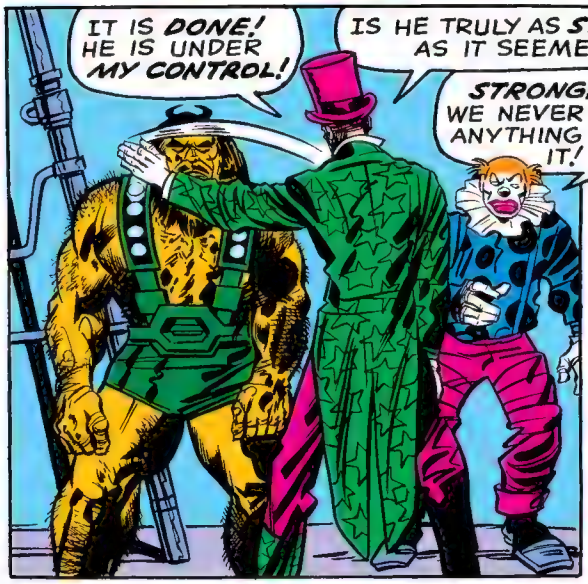
--THE DEED IS DONE!
I AM UPON THE EARTH!
ULIK IS READY-- TO MAKE THE KILL!


TREMBLING MORTALS--HEAR THE WORDS OF ULIK!
TAKE ME TO THE THUNDER GOD!!
HEY, RUBE!! THERE'S TROUBLE! COME A'RUNNIN'!!!
WHO IS THAT NUT?
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
WHAT?? YOU DARE ATTACK THE GREATEST TROLL OF ALL?!!
LOOK OUT! HE AINT EVEN HUMAN!!
RUN! HE'LL KILL US ALL!
HE'S TOSSIN' US AROUND --LIKE PEBBLES!
6

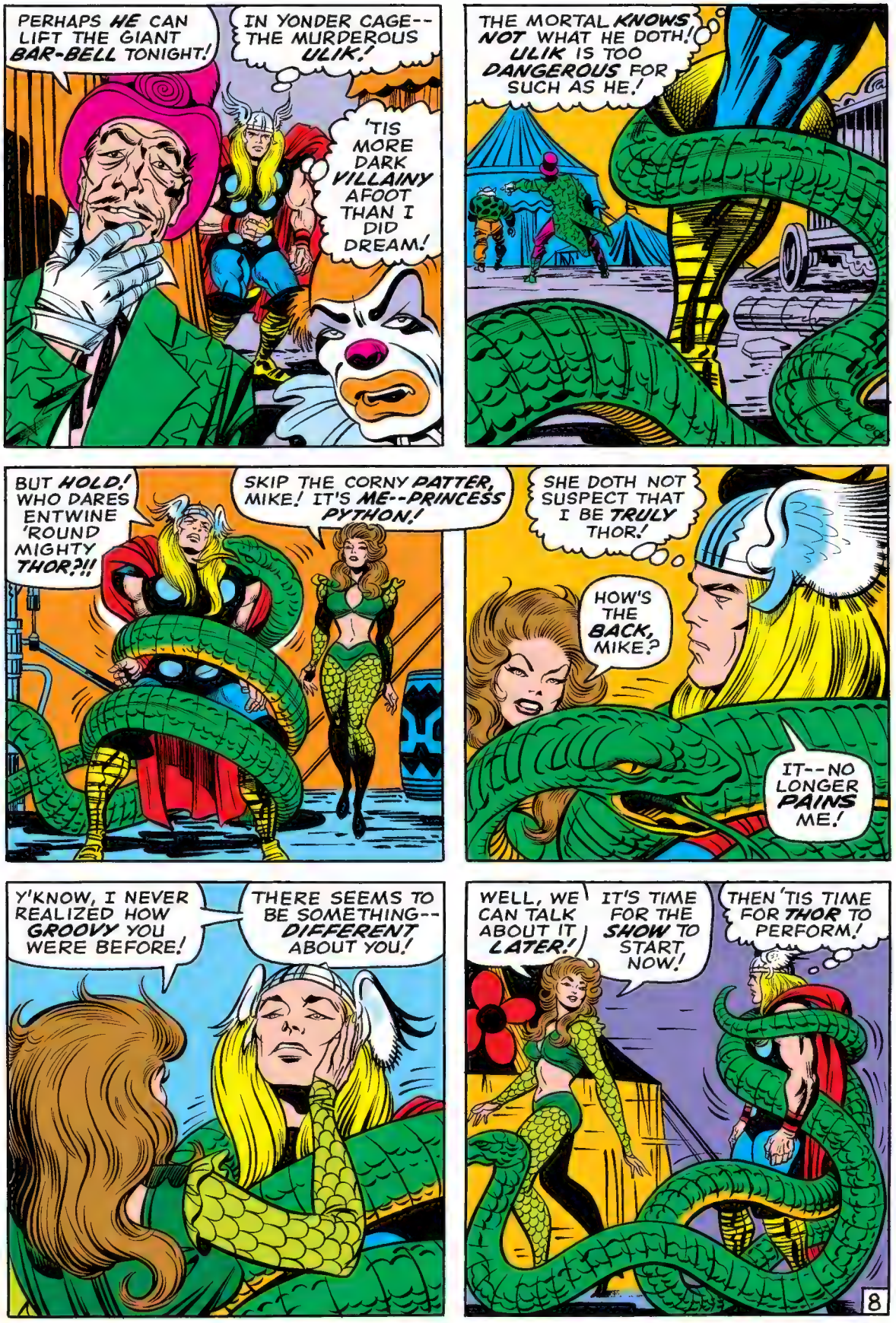

STAND AWAY FROM HIM-- ALL OF YOU!
THE RINGMASTER IS HERE!

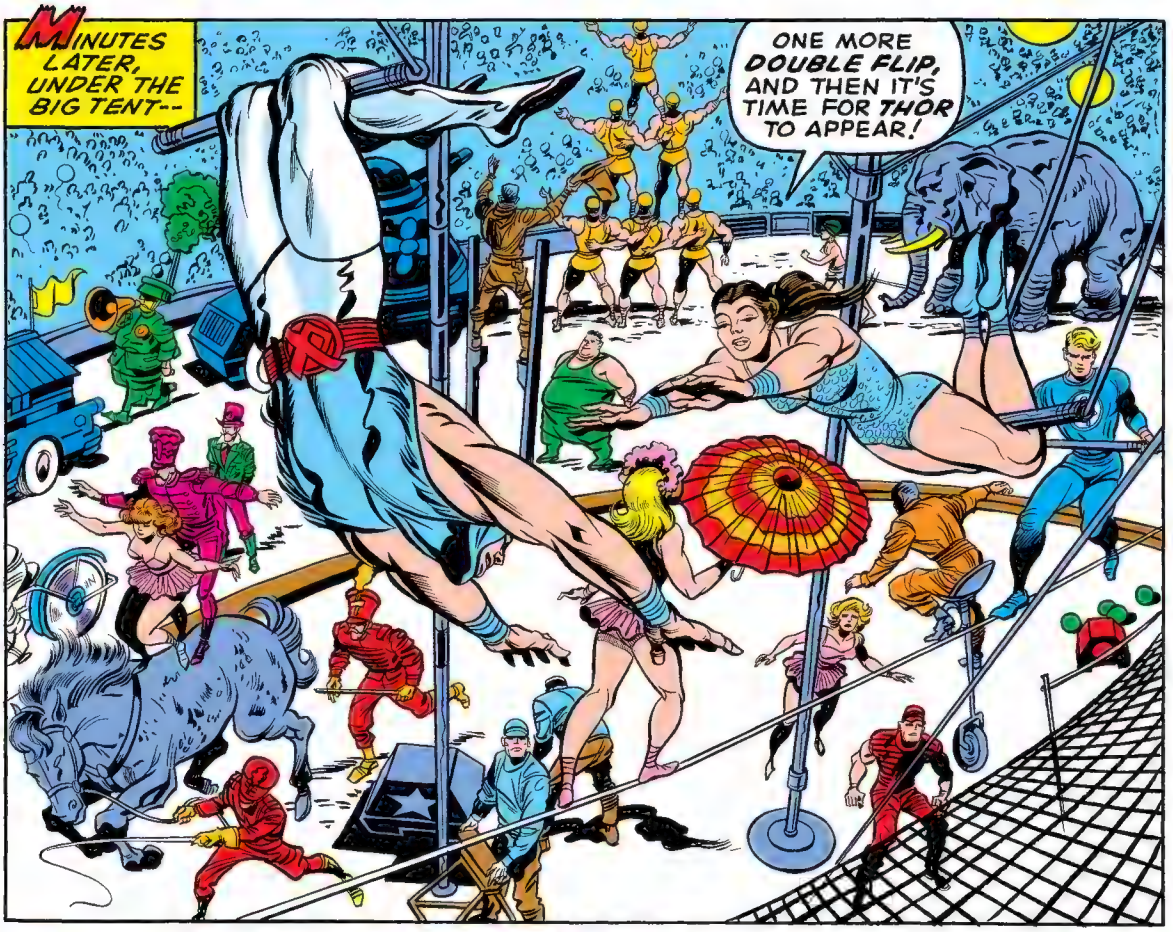

YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHERS! I CAN CRUSH YOU WITH A SHRUG!
NO! NOT IF YOU LOOK INTO MY EYES!

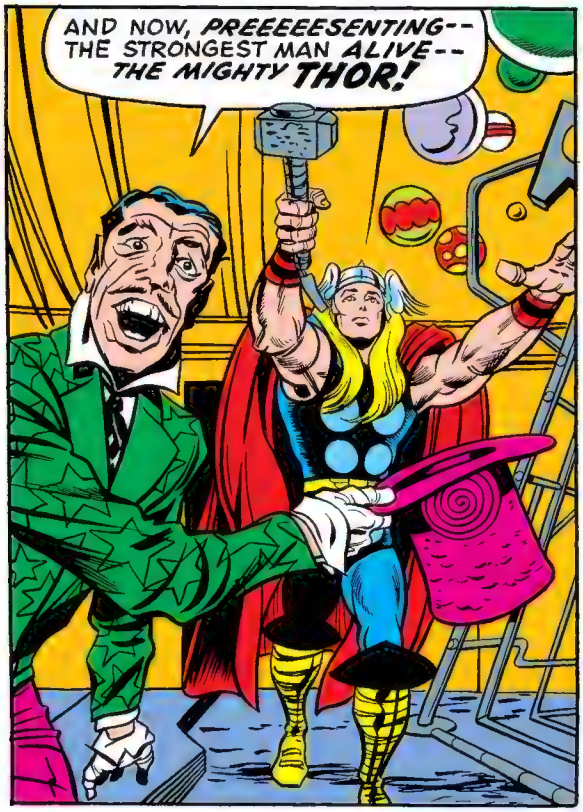
LOOK DEEPER-- DEEPER! THE RINGMASTER COMMANDS!
AHHH-- YOUR MIND IS TRAPPED --WITHIN THE MOVING CIRCLE!


IT IS DONE! HE IS UNDER MY CONTROL!
IS HE TRULY AS STRONG AS IT SEEMED?
STRONGER! WE NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!

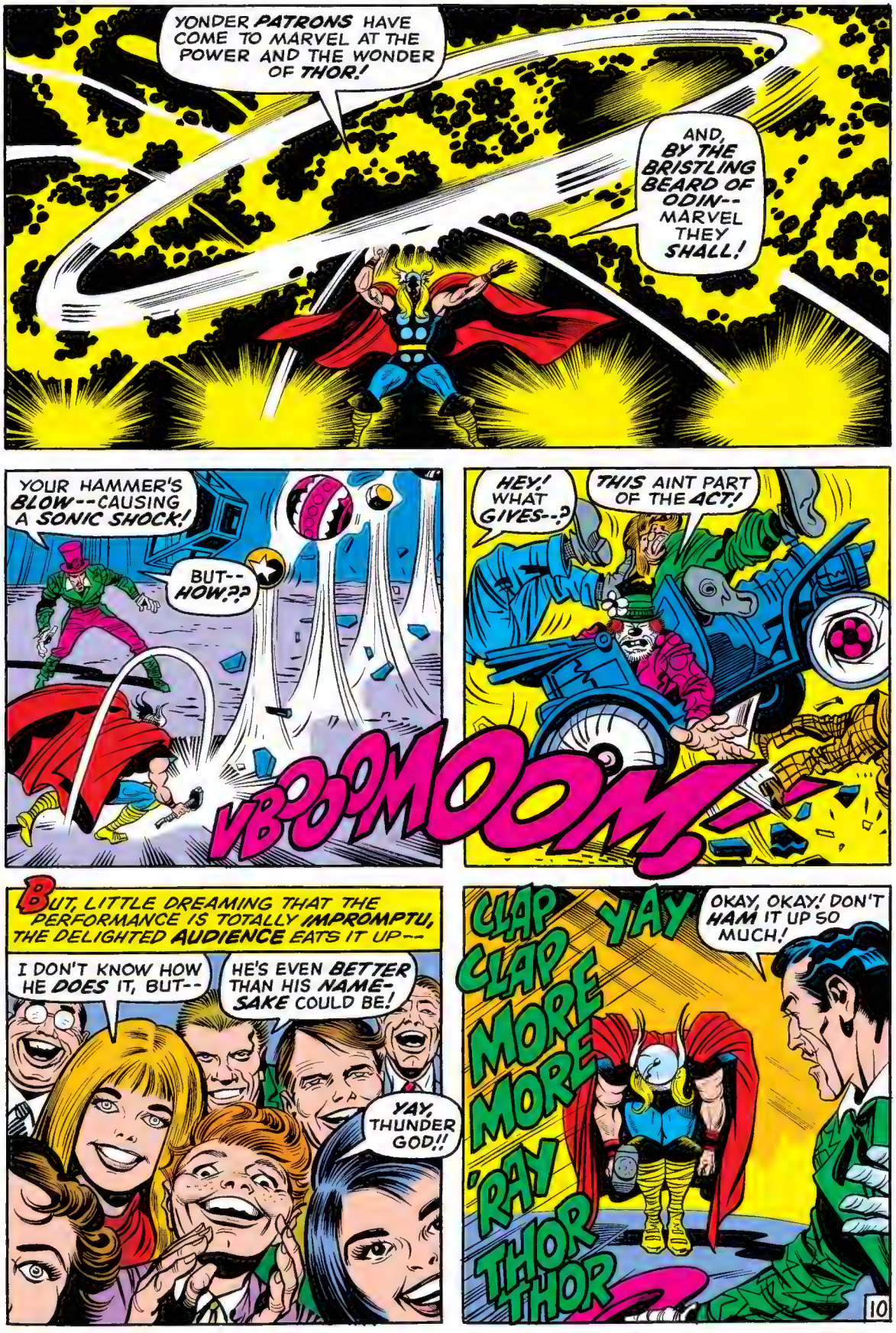
THEN CAGE HIM! IF MY PHONY THOR IS INJURED AGAIN, ULIK WILL TAKE HIS PLACE!

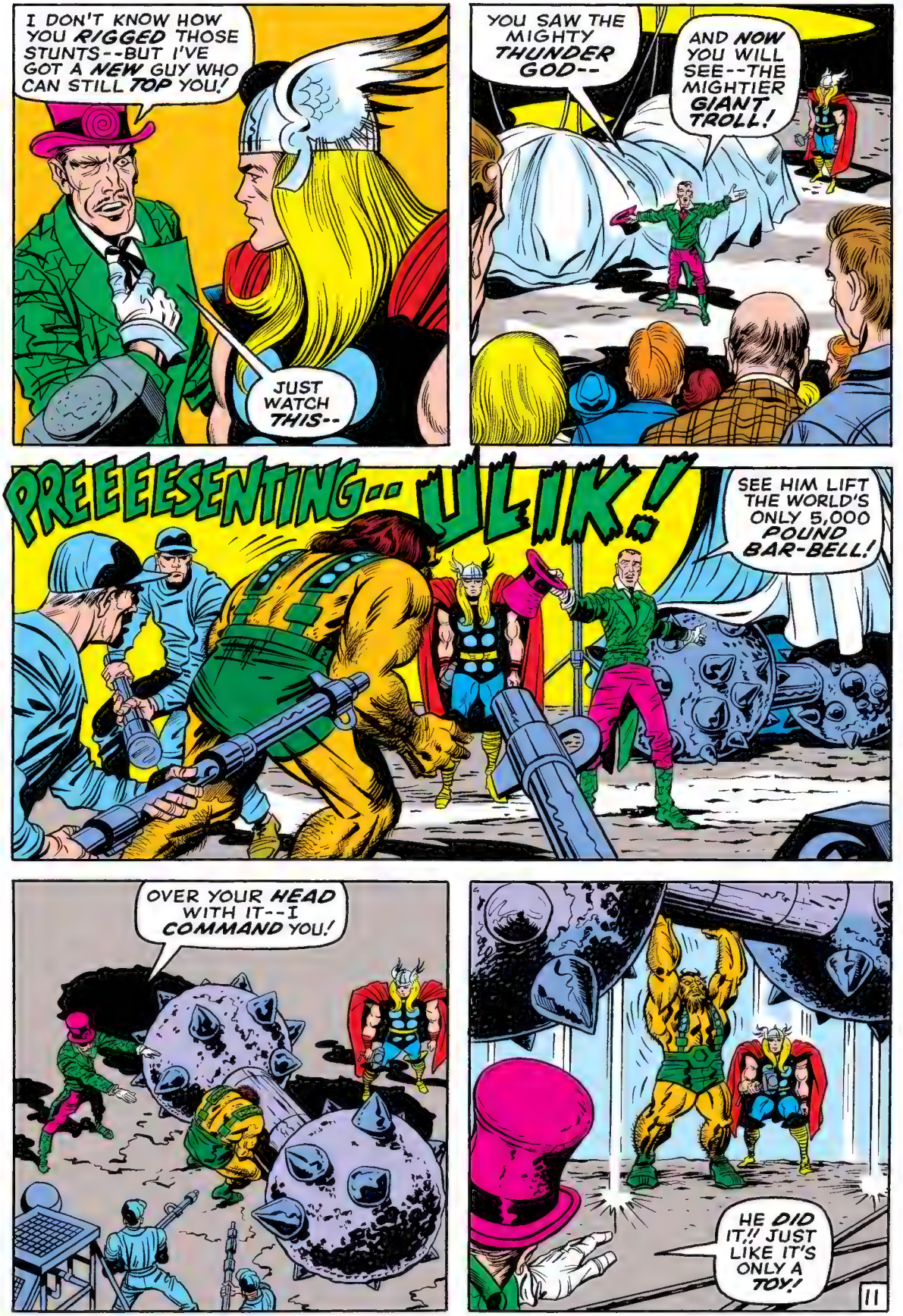

PERHAPS HE CAN LIFT THE GIANT BAR-BELL TONIGHT!
IN YONDER CAGE--THE MURDEROUS ULIK!
'TIS MORE DARK VILLAINY AFOOT THAN I DID DREAM!
THE MORTAL KNOWS NOT WHAT HE DOTH! ULIK IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR SUCH AS HE!
BUT HOLD! WHO DARES ENTWINE 'ROUND MIGHTY THOR?!!
SKIP THE CORNY PATTER, MIKE! IT'S ME--PRINCESS PYTHON!
SHE DOTH NOT SUSPECT THAT I BE TRULY THOR!
HOW'S THE BACK, MIKE?
IT--NO LONGER PAINS ME!
Y'KNOW, I NEVER REALIZED HOW GROOVY YOU WERE BEFORE!
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING--DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU!
WELL, WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT LATER!
IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOW TO START NOW!
THEN 'TIS TIME FOR THOR TO PERFORM!

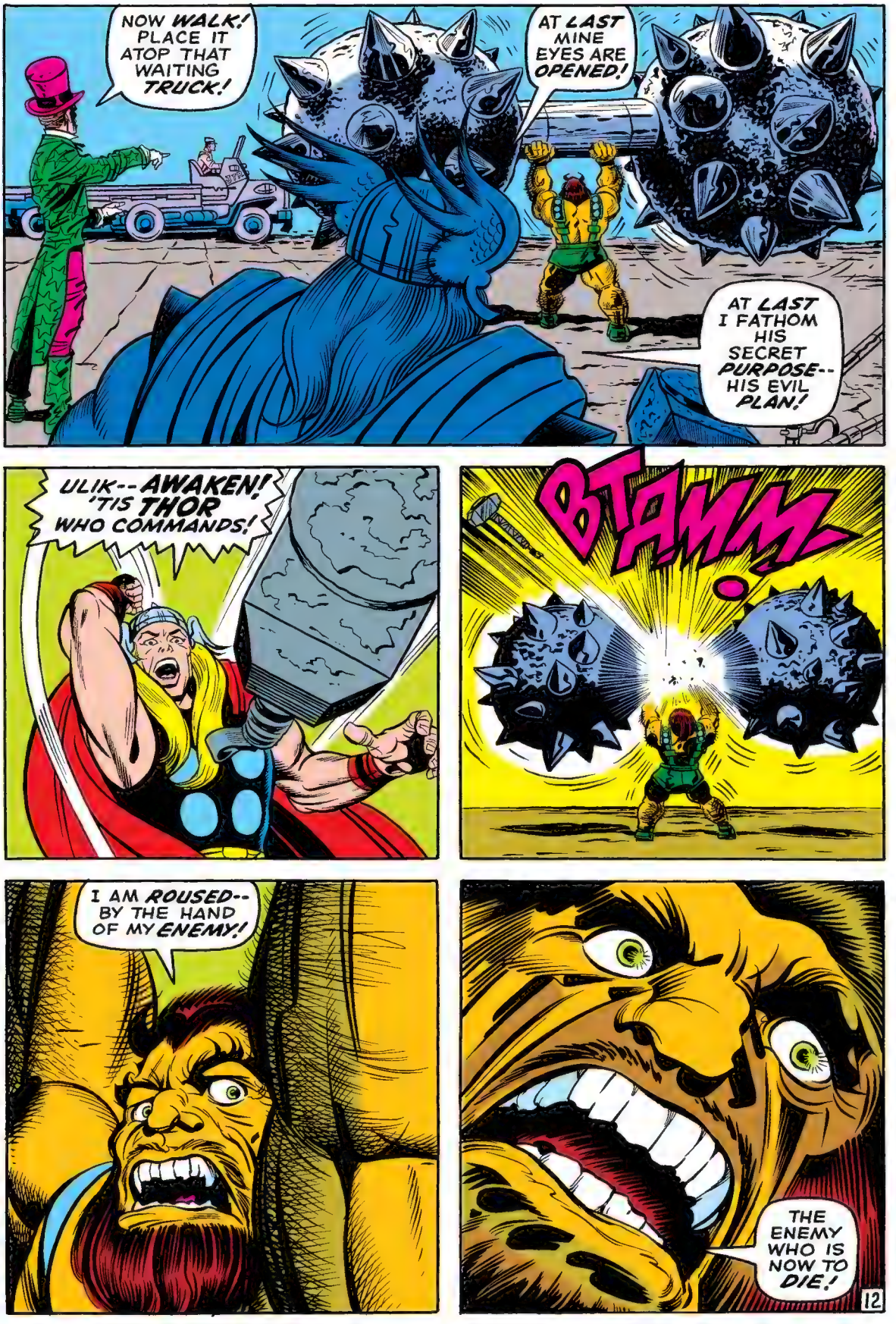

MINUTES LATER, UNDER THE BIG TENT--
ONE MORE DOUBLE FLIP, AND THEN IT'S TIME FOR THOR TO APPEAR!


AND NOW, PREEEEESENTING-- THE STRONGEST MAN ALIVE-- THE MIGHTY THOR!

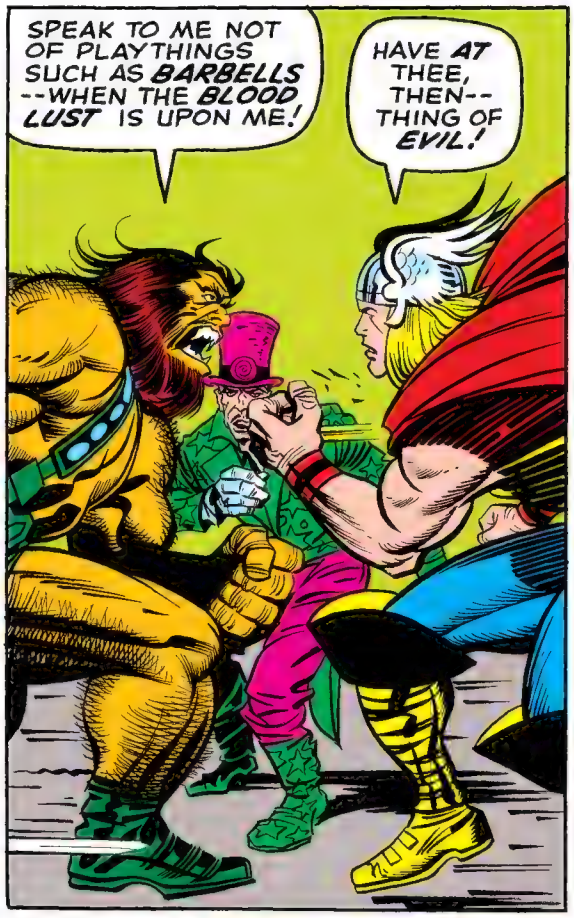
TAKE IT EASY WITH THE HAMMER, MIKE! DON'T BUST IT LIKE YOU DID THE LAST ONE!
OF THAT, THOU NEEDST HAVE NO FEAR!


YONDER PATRONS HAVE COME TO MARVEL AT THE POWER AND THE WONDER OF THOR!
AND, BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN-- MARVEL THEY SHALL!
YOUR HAMMER'S BLOW--CAUSING A SONIC SHOCK!
BUT-- HOW??
VBOOOMOOOM
HEY! WHAT GIVES--?
THIS AINT PART OF THE ACT!
BUT, LITTLE DREAMING THAT THE PERFORMANCE IS TOTALLY IMPROMPTU, THE DELIGHTED AUDIENCE EATS IT UP--
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DOES IT, BUT--
HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN HIS NAME-SAKE COULD BE!
YAY, THUNDER GOD!!
CLAP CLAP MORE MORE 'RAY THOR THOR
OKAY, OKAY! DON'T HAM IT UP SO MUCH!
10


I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU RIGGED THOSE STUNTS--BUT I'VE GOT A NEW GUY WHO CAN STILL TOP YOU!
JUST WATCH THIS--
YOU SAW THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD--
AND NOW YOU WILL SEE--THE MIGHTIER GIANT TROLL!
PREEEESENTING--ULIK!
SEE HIM LIFT THE WORLD'S ONLY 5,000 POUND BAR-BELL!
OVER YOUR HEAD WITH IT--I COMMAND YOU!
HE DID IT!! JUST LIKE IT'S ONLY A TOY!
11


NOW WALK! PLACE IT ATOP THAT WAITING TRUCK!
AT LAST MINE EYES ARE OPENED!
AT LAST I FATHOM HIS SECRET PURPOSE-- HIS EVIL PLAN!
ULIK-- AWAKEN! 'TIS THOR WHO COMMANDS!
BTAMM
I AM ROUSED-- BY THE HAND OF MY ENEMY!
THE ENEMY WHO IS NOW TO DIE!
12

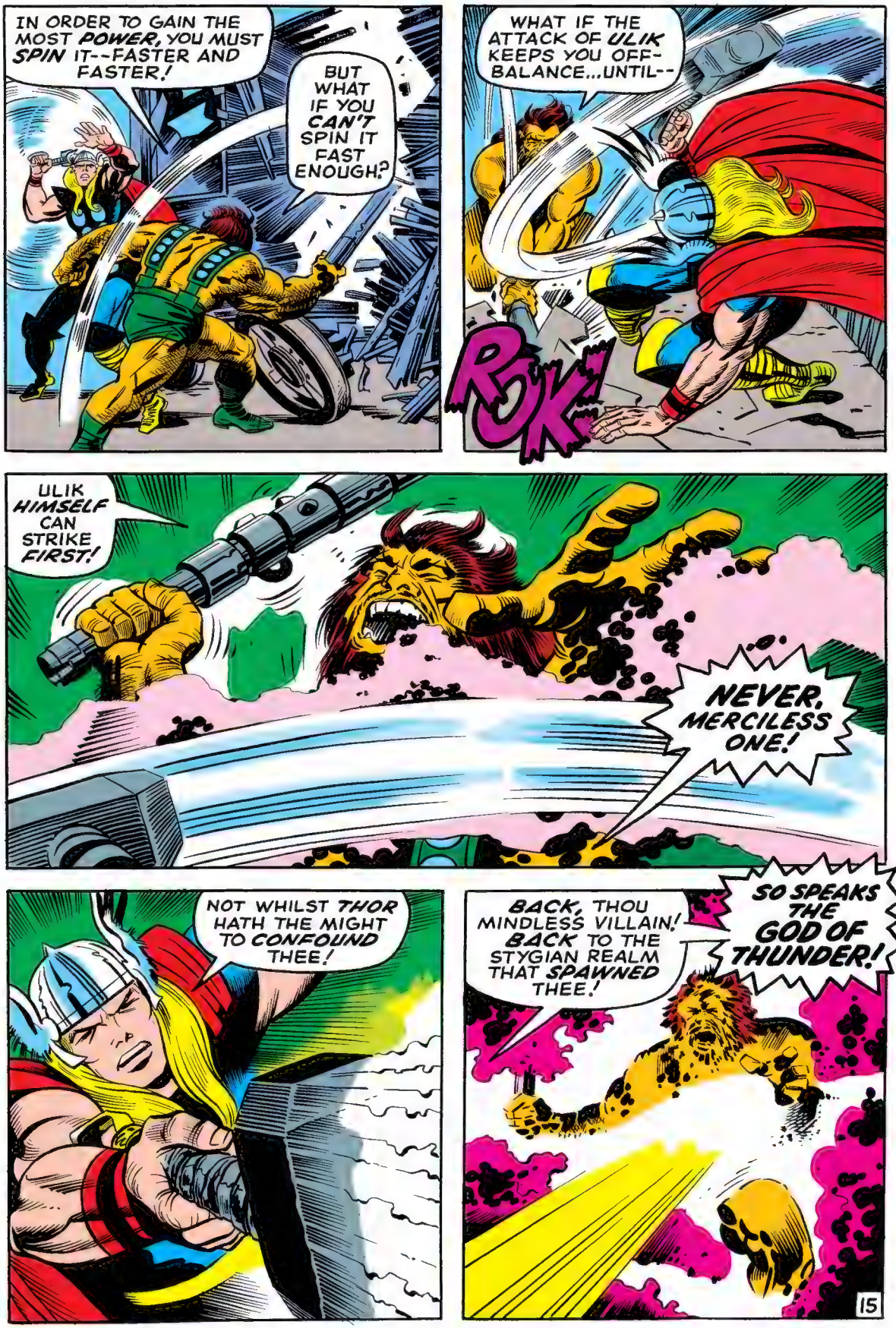
THE THREATS OF ULIK NE'ER CAN FELL ME!
THE BAR-BELL! DON'T DROP IT!


SPEAK TO ME NOT OF PLAYTHINGS SUCH AS BARBELLS --WHEN THE BLOOD LUST IS UPON ME!
HAVE AT THEE, THEN-- THING OF EVIL!

SPOK!

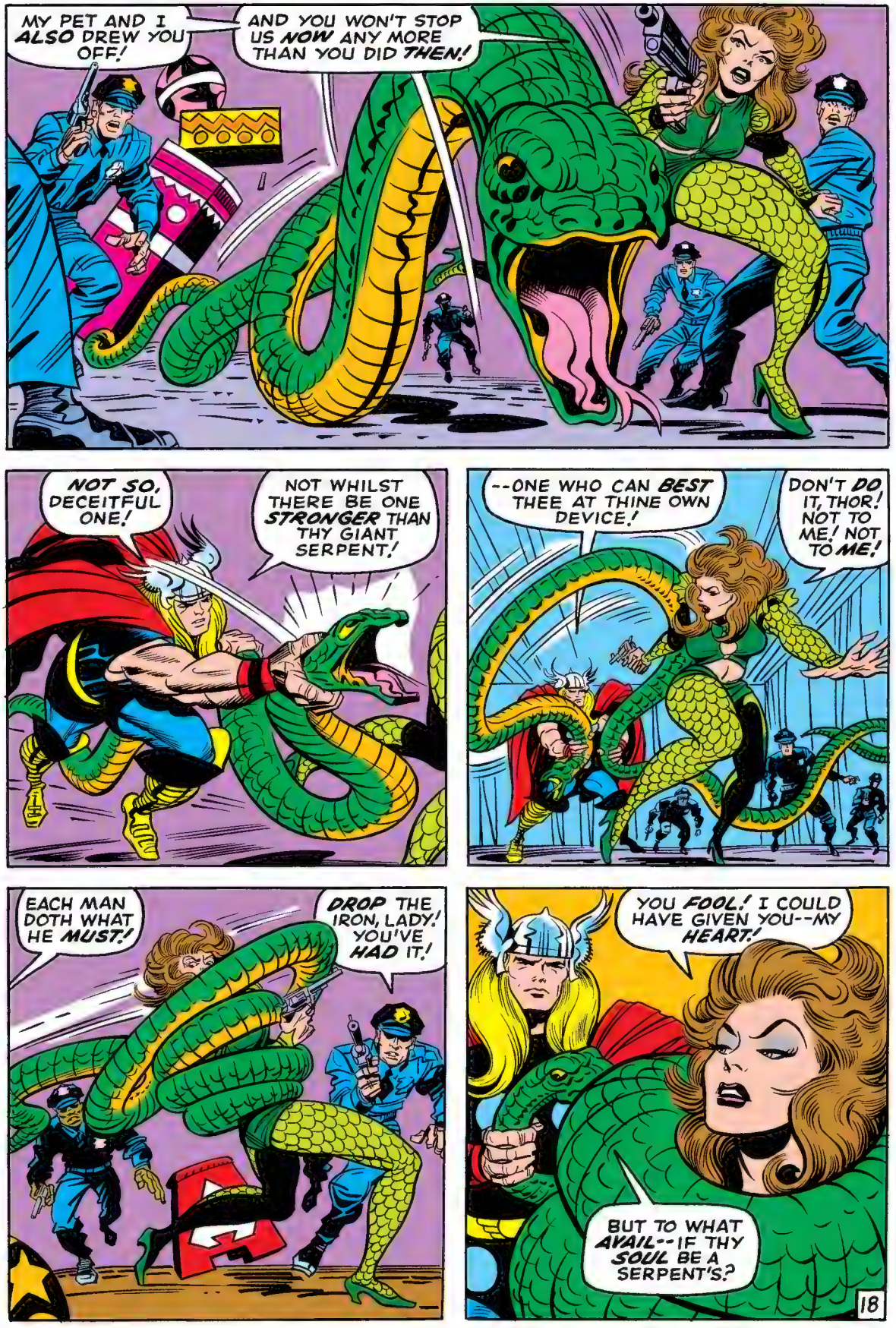
NEVER AGAIN WILL ULIK BOW TO THE MIGHT OF ASGARD!

EVER MUST EVIL BOW TO THE MIGHT--TO THE POWER OF GOOD!
AND TRULY--THOU ART EVIL!
ON THY FEET, TROLL! THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH NOT YET DONE WITH THEE!
YOU THINK ONE LUCKY BLOW HAS SAVED YOU??!
THEN, ASGARDIAN --THINK AGAIN!
'TIS GOOD THAT HIS BESTIAL WRATH IS DIRECTED ONLY AT THE SON OF ODIN!
--LEST, IN HIS SAVAGE RAGE, SOME HARM BEFALL A HAPLESS MORTAL!
THOU DAREST CHARGE TOWARDS WHIRLING MJOLNIR?
YOUR HAMMER CAN'T HARM ME!
14

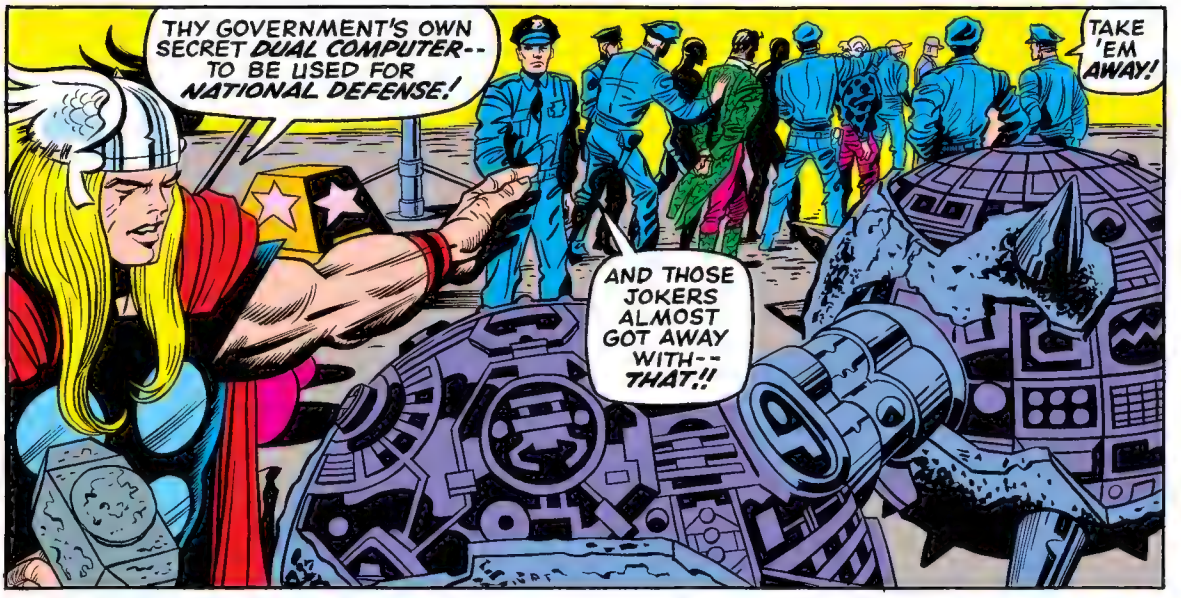

IN ORDER TO GAIN THE MOST POWER, YOU MUST SPIN IT--FASTER AND FASTER!
BUT WHAT IF YOU CAN'T SPIN IT FAST ENOUGH?
WHAT IF THE ATTACK OF ULIK KEEPS YOU OFF-BALANCE...UNTIL--
RUK!!
ULIK HIMSELF CAN STRIKE FIRST!
NEVER, MERCILESS ONE!
NOT WHILST THOR HATH THE MIGHT TO CONFOUND THEE!
BACK, THOU MINDLESS VILLAIN! BACK TO THE STYGIAN REALM THAT SPAWNED THEE!
SO SPEAKS THE GOD OF THUNDER!

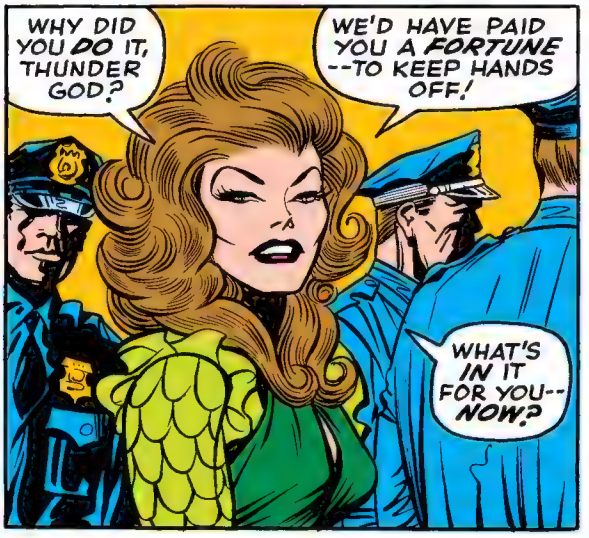
HE'S GONE! ULIK VANISHED-- RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!
THOU DOST BEHOLD THE TRUE SON OF ODIN!
YEA, I BE THE ONE --THE MIGHTY THOR!
IT ISN'T MIKE! IT'S HIM! IT'S REALLY THE THUNDER GOD!
MY HAT! YOU MUST STARE AT THE CIRCLES-- UPON MY HAT!
MORTAL, I SAY THEE NAY!
THY SECRET NOW IS KNOWN TO ME! 'TIS THEE WHO HAVE DONE THE UNPARDONABLE!
--AND 'TIS THOR WHO HATH SET THE STAGE FOR THY FINAL ACT!
DON'T MAKE A MOVE, RING-MASTER! YOU'VE HAD IT!
ROUND UP THE REST OF 'EM, BOYS!
16

'TWAS THINE ACROBATS WHO RAIDED THY GOVERNMENT'S ELECTRONICS CENTER--
--ATOP EACH OTHER'S SHOULDERS THEY REACHED THE UNGUARDED THIRD FLOOR WINDOW!
HE'S WISE TO US! HE KNOWS!
AND, THANKS TO HIM, WE ALL KNOW NOW!
HE SENT FOR US JUST IN TIME
AND NOW THE LAW'S READY FOR YOU, STUNTMAN!
AND WE'RE READY FOR YOU TOO, CLOWN!
HARRY! JOE! GET THE PROP STICK!
LAST TIME YOU HELPED 'EM ESCAPE BY DRAWING AWAY OUR ATTENTION!
HOW OFTEN DID YOU EXPECT TO PULL IT OFF?
17


MY PET AND I ALSO DREW YOU OFF!
AND YOU WON'T STOP US NOW ANY MORE THAN YOU DID THEN!
NOT SO, DECEITFUL ONE!
NOT WHILST THERE BE ONE STRONGER THAN THY GIANT SERPENT!
--ONE WHO CAN BEST THEE AT THINE OWN DEVICE!
DON'T DO IT, THOR! NOT TO ME! NOT TO ME!
EACH MAN DOTH WHAT HE MUST!
DROP THE IRON, LADY! YOU'VE HAD IT!
YOU FOOL! I COULD HAVE GIVEN YOU--MY HEART!
BUT TO WHAT AVAIL--IF THY SOUL BE A SERPENT'S?
18

YOU CAN'T HOLD ME--NOT JUST ON THE WORD OF THAT MUSCLE-BOUND, LONG-HAIRED FREAK!
YOU'VE NO EVIDENCE--NO PROOF THAT I DID ANYTHING WRONG!!
ONCE AGAIN, INSIDIOUS ONE, THOU LIEST IN THY TEETH!
WHAT'S THOR DOIN' NOW?
BEATS ME! LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADIN' FOR THAT OVERSIZED BAR-BELL!
NO! NO! STAY AWAY FROM THERE!
BYONNG!
'TWAS THIS THAT CAUSED THE FALSE THOR TO INJURE HIS BACK--WHEN HE HELPED LIFT IT AFTER YON THEFT--!
LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE THAT THING!!
19


THY GOVERNMENT'S OWN SECRET DUAL COMPUTER-- TO BE USED FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE!
TAKE 'EM AWAY!
AND THOSE JOKERS ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH-- THAT!!


WHY DID YOU DO IT, THUNDER GOD?
WE'D HAVE PAID YOU A FORTUNE --TO KEEP HANDS OFF!
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU-- NOW?

SO LONG AS THOU CANST ONLY THINK IN TERMS OF MONETARY GAIN--
--THEN VERILY I SAY--NEVER CANST THOU UNDER-STAND!

MAYHAP, THE DAY WILL COME WHEN MEN THINK OF TRUTH--OF RIGHT-- OF LOVE FOR ALL THEIR FELLOWS!
I PRAY THAT 'TWILL COME SOON!
20

FOR NOT TILL THEN WILL HUMANITY FULFILL ITS PROMISE--

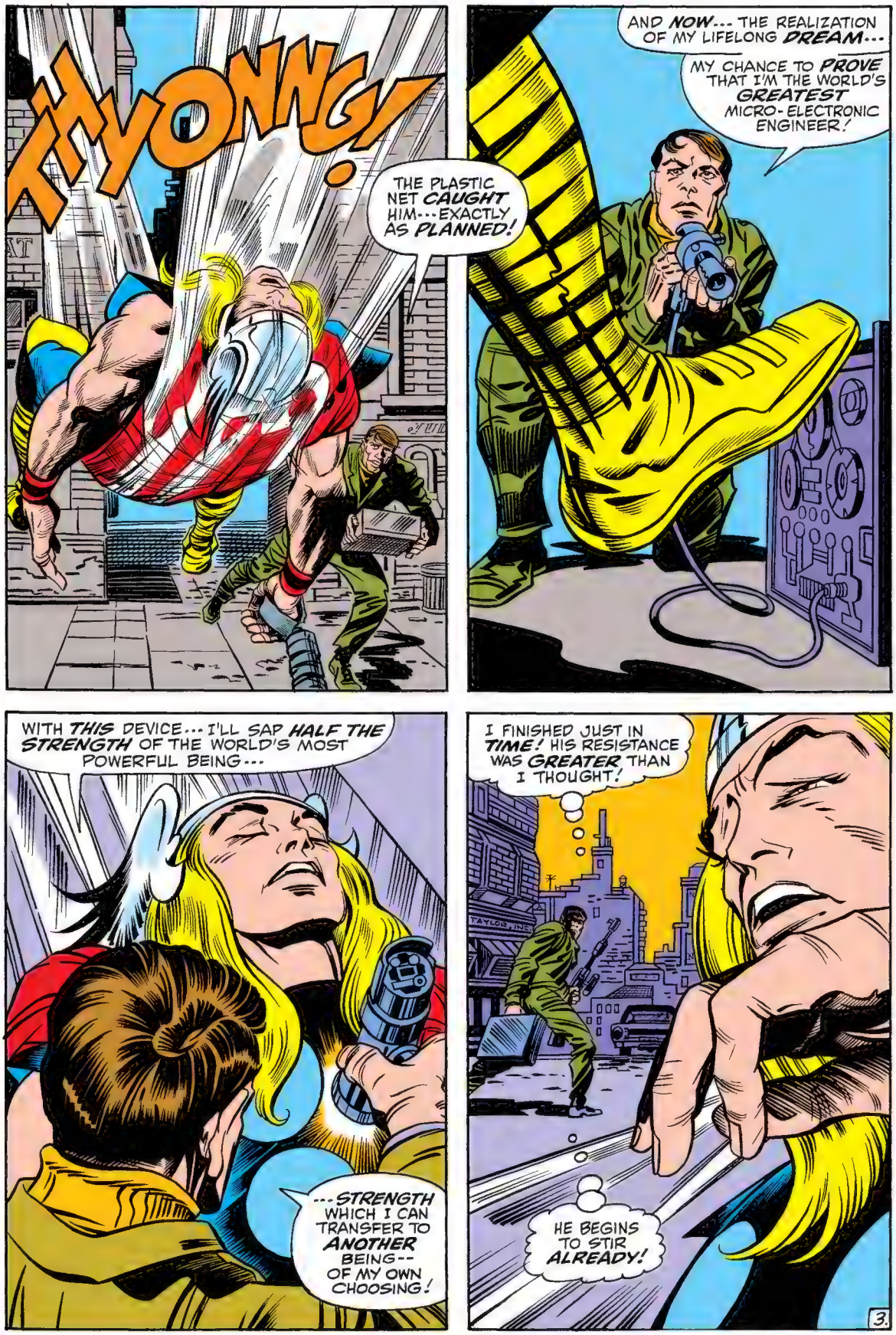
NAY, NOT TILL THEN--
--WILL MAN AND GOD--BE ONE!
NEXT
THE COMING OF THE CRYPTO-MAN!

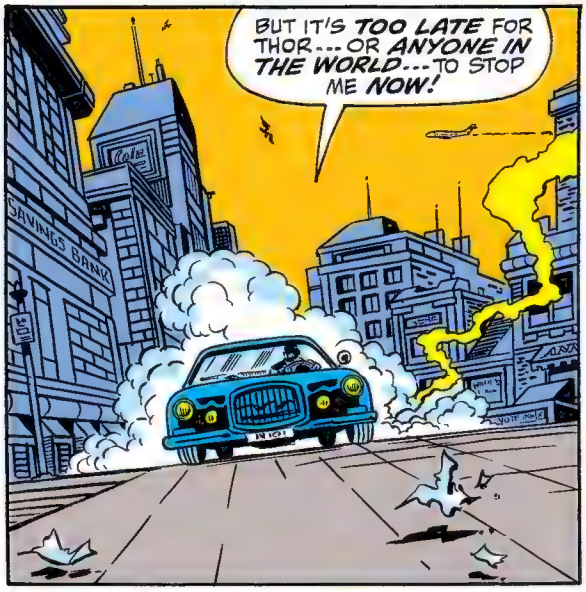
THOR
15¢
174
MAR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE CHALLENGE OF THE CRYPTO-MAN!
Kirby & Ayers

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

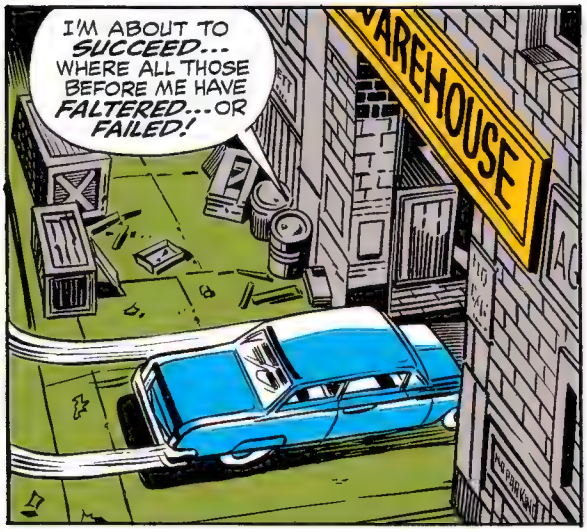
THE CARNAGE OF THE CRYPTO-MAN!
THREE STRANGE FLYING OBJECTS ... STREAKING ACROSS YON EVENING SKY!
I MUST NOW LEARN THE WHY AND WHERE-FORE!
SCRIPT and ART by: STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
INKING: BILL EVERETT
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
121

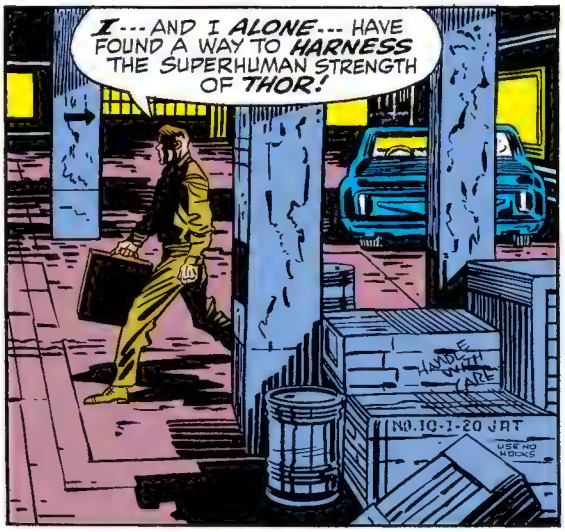
THEY DO HALT IN MID-FLIGHT-- SPINNING MADLY ABOUT!
AND, BEFORE MY VERY EYES... THEIR COLORS AND HUES NOW DO MYSTICALLY CHANGE!
'TIS ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY DO SEEK TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THOR!
BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE HURTLING THUNDER-GOD DRAW NEAR, WHEN...
IT WORKED! MY ILLUSION-BEAMS DECOYED HIM INTO TARGET POSITION!
---AND MY HYPNO-STUN RAY DID THE REST!
BUT THIS IS ONLY THE INITIAL PART OF MY MASTER PLAN!
I MUST COMPLETE PHASE TWO BEFORE THE HYPNO-SHOCK WEARS OFF!
2.


THYONNG!
THE PLASTIC NET CAUGHT HIM··· EXACTLY AS PLANNED!
AND NOW··· THE REALIZATION OF MY LIFELONG DREAM···
MY CHANCE TO PROVE THAT I'M THE WORLD'S GREATEST MICRO-ELECTRONIC ENGINEER!
WITH THIS DEVICE··· I'LL SAP HALF THE STRENGTH OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL BEING···
···STRENGTH WHICH I CAN TRANSFER TO ANOTHER BEING-- OF MY OWN CHOOSING!
I FINISHED JUST IN TIME! HIS RESISTANCE WAS GREATER THAN I THOUGHT!
HE BEGINS TO STIR ALREADY!
TAYLOR, INC.
3.

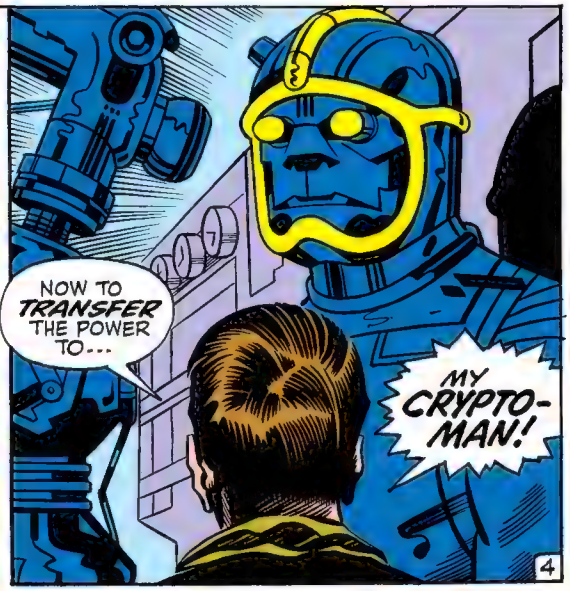

BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR THOR--- OR ANYONE IN THE WORLD---TO STOP ME NOW!
SAVINGS BANK

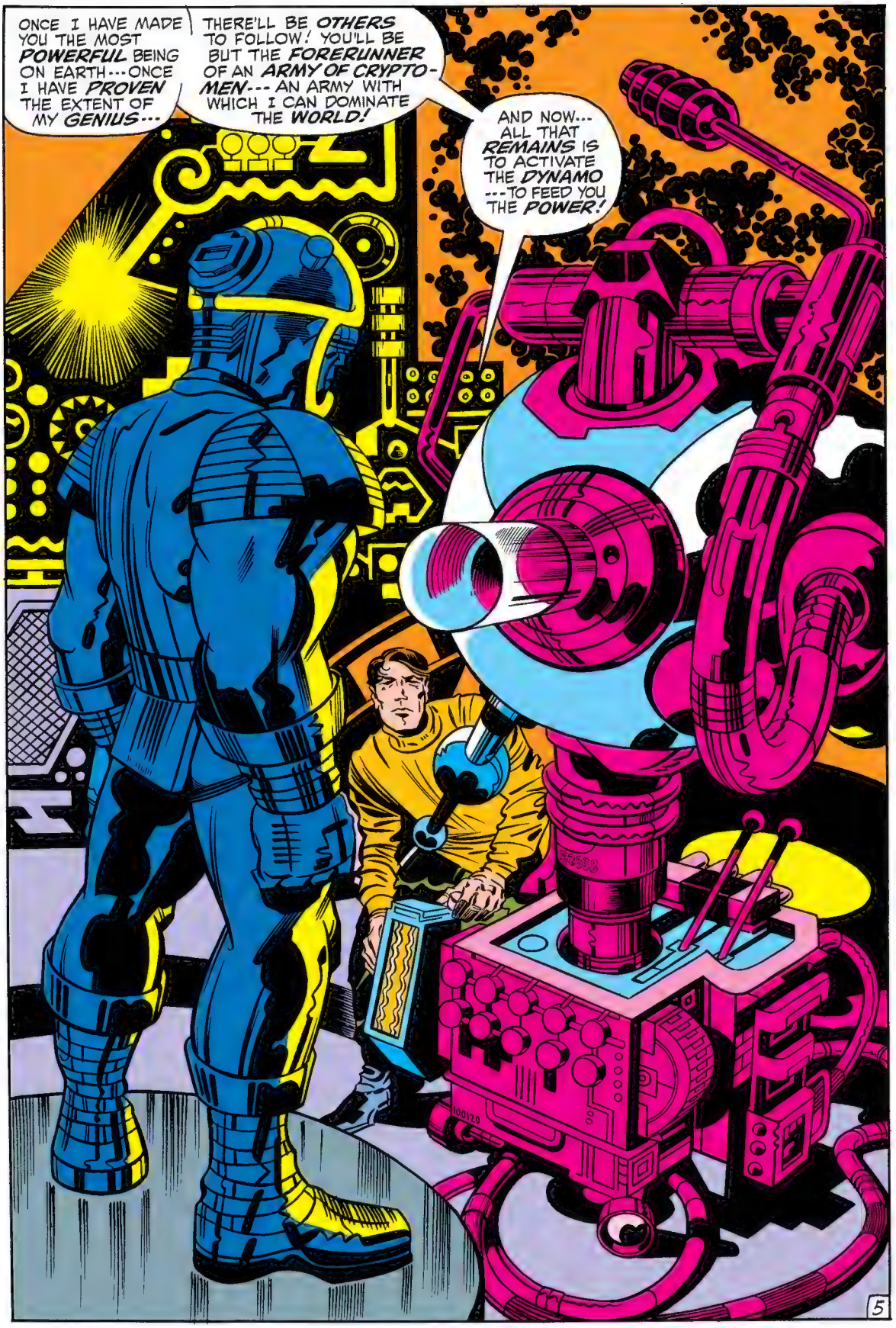
THEY DARED TO CALL ME MAD---THEY SAID I WAS TOO YOUNG TO REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS MY EXPERIMENTS WERE!
BUT NOW THEY'LL WAIL A DIFFERENT TUNE!


I'M ABOUT TO SUCCEED--- WHERE ALL THOSE BEFORE ME HAVE FALTERED---OR FAILED!
WAREHOUSE

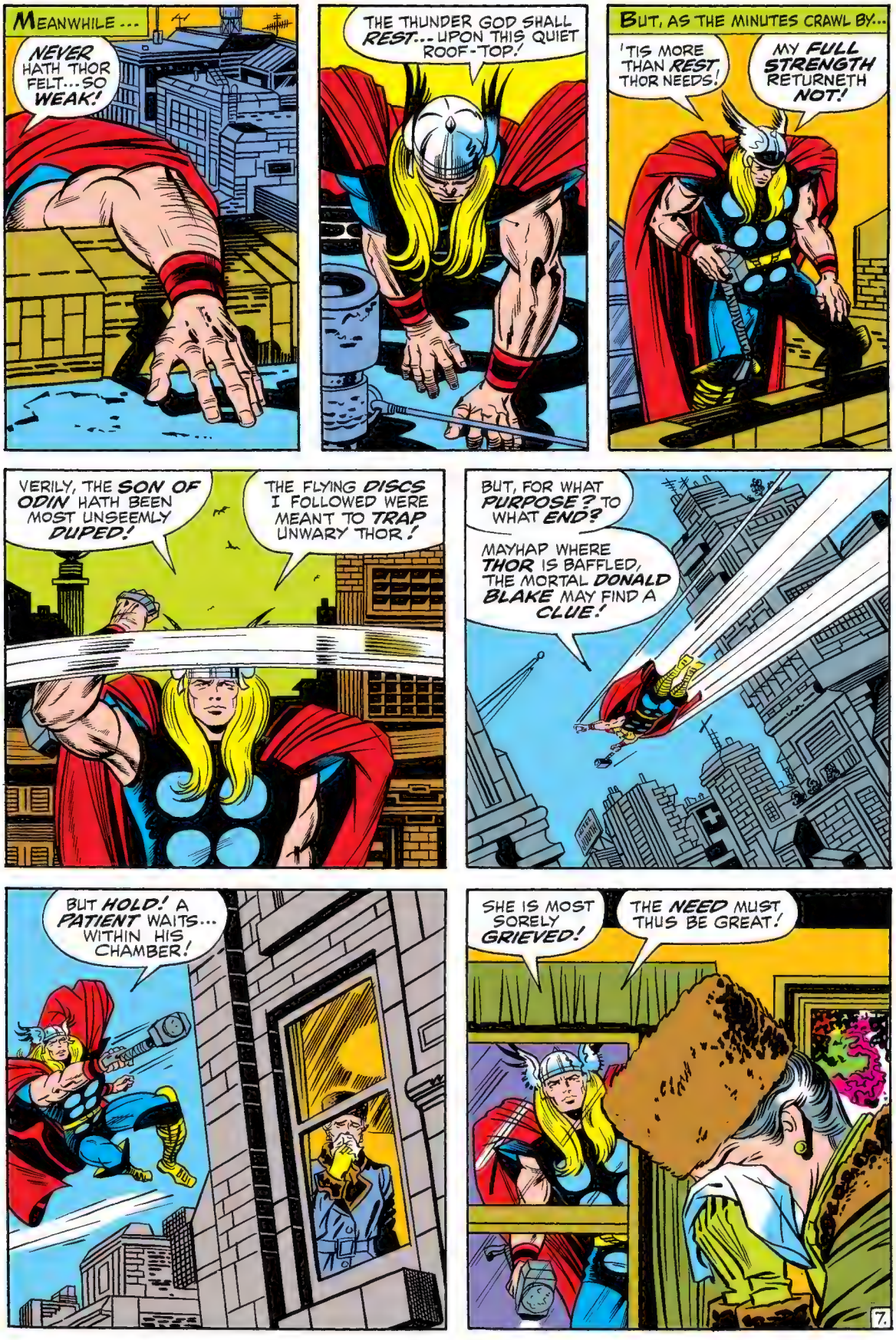

I---AND I ALONE---HAVE FOUND A WAY TO HARNESS THE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OF THOR!
NO.10-1-20 JAT
USE NO HOOKS

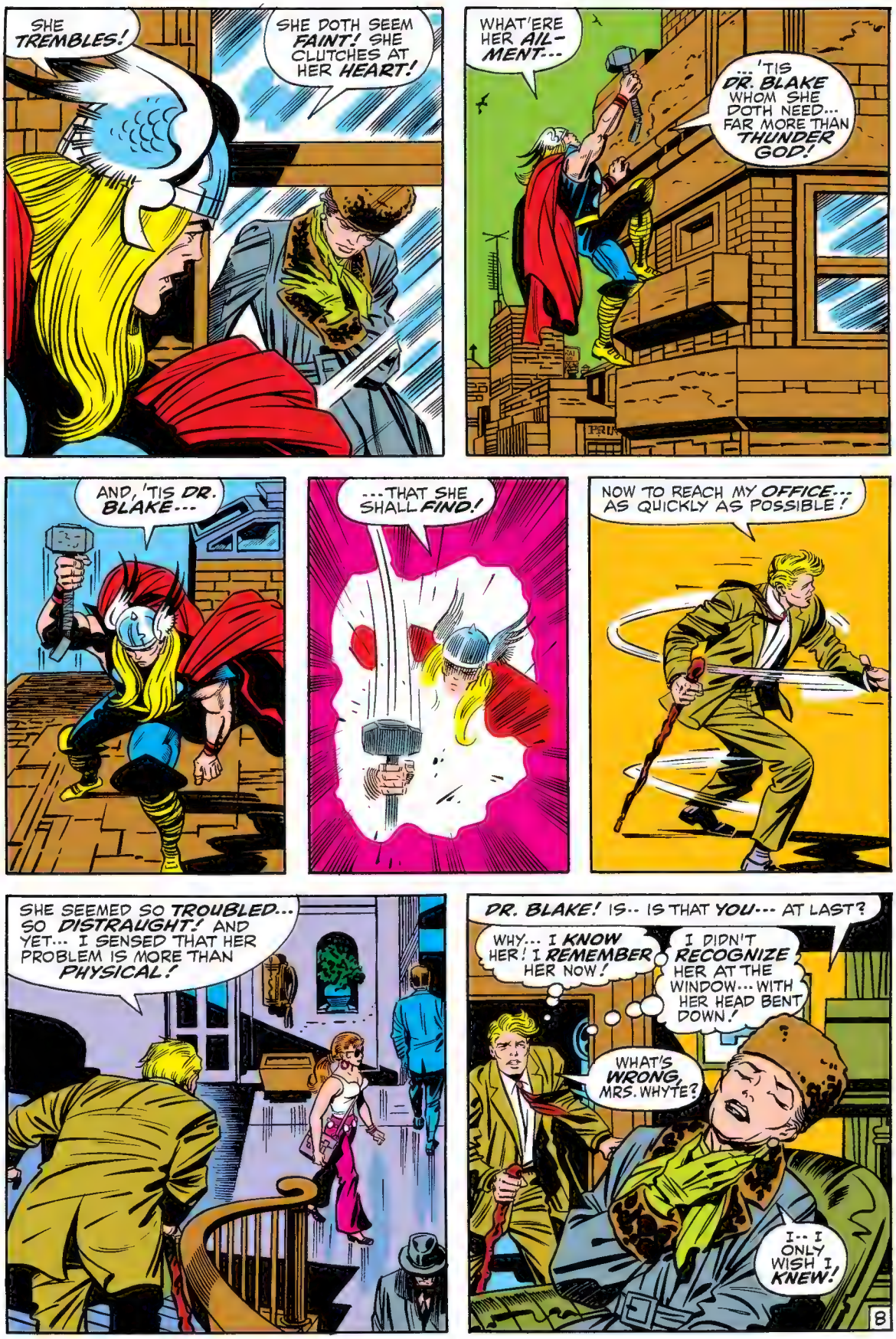
IT WILL SERVE ONLY ME--- AS I USE IT TO TAKE MY REVENGE ON THOSE WHO HAVE RIDICULED ME IN THE PAST!
CLICK
AND NOW FOR THE ONE WHO SO PATIENTLY WAITS---TO DO MY BIDDING!

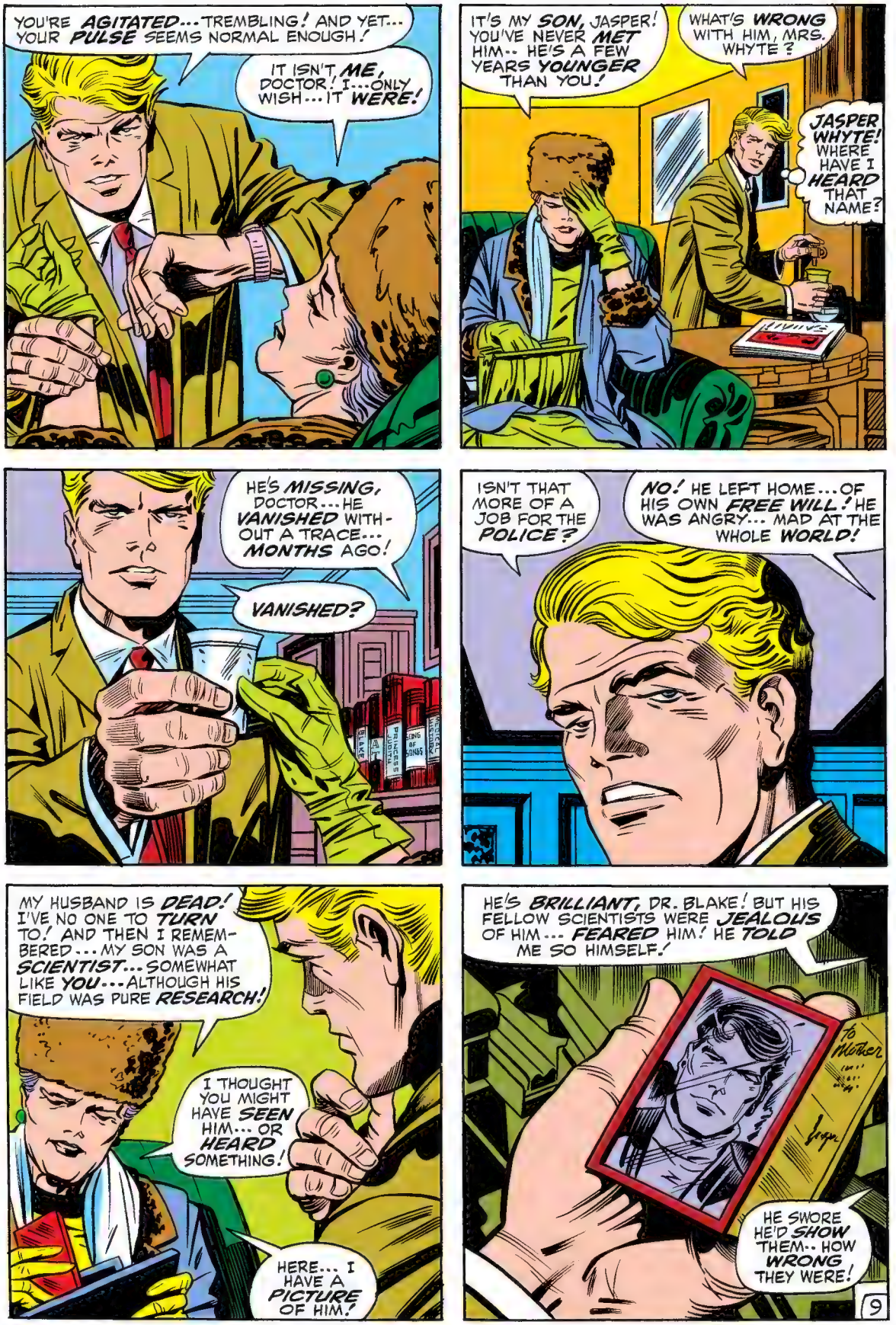

NOW TO TRANSFER THE POWER TO---
MY CRYPTO-MAN!


ONCE I HAVE MADE YOU THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON EARTH--- ONCE I HAVE PROVEN THE EXTENT OF MY GENIUS---
THERE'LL BE OTHERS TO FOLLOW! YOU'LL BE BUT THE FORERUNNER OF AN ARMY OF CRYPTO-MEN--- AN ARMY WITH WHICH I CAN DOMINATE THE WORLD!
AND NOW--- ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO ACTIVATE THE DYNAMO ---TO FEED YOU THE POWER!
5

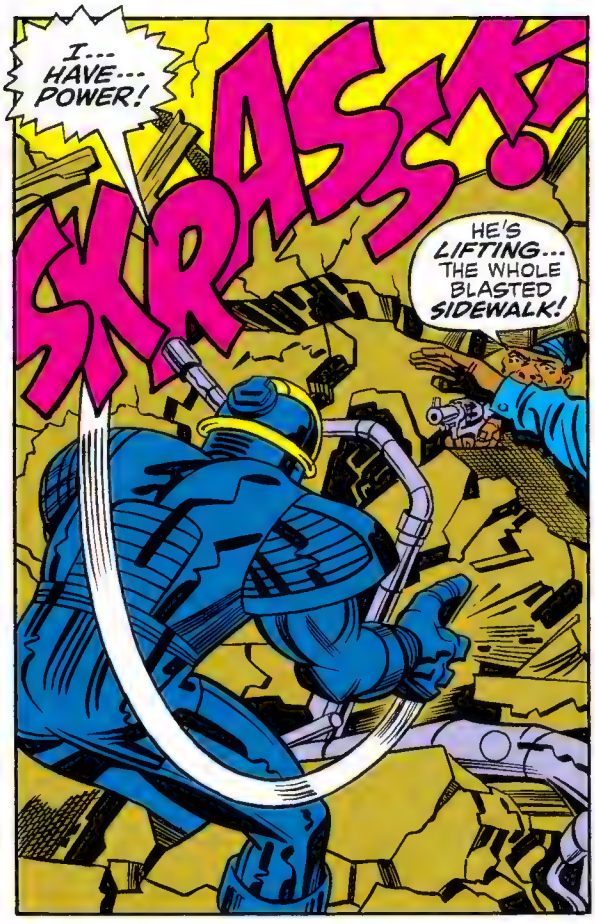
I'VE DONE IT!
YOU NOW POSSESS POWER WHICH CAN MATCH THOR'S OWN!
FOR IT WAS TAKEN FROM THE THUNDER GOD HIMSELF!
I... POSSESS .. POWER!
AND I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU'LL OBEY MY EVERY THOUGHT!
I... POSSESS ... POWER!
KRAK!
NOW HALT! GOOD ...GOOD! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE... YOU MUST OBEY ME!
NOW REMAIN MOTIONLESS... AS I GIVE YOU YOUR COMMANDS!
6


MEANWHILE ...
NEVER HATH THOR FELT... SO WEAK!
THE THUNDER GOD SHALL REST... UPON THIS QUIET ROOF-TOP!
BUT, AS THE MINUTES CRAWL BY...
'TIS MORE THAN REST, THOR NEEDS!
MY FULL STRENGTH RETURNETH NOT!
VERILY, THE SON OF ODIN HATH BEEN MOST UNSEEMLY DUPED!
THE FLYING DISCS I FOLLOWED WERE MEANT TO TRAP UNWARY THOR!
BUT, FOR WHAT PURPOSE? TO WHAT END?
MAYHAP WHERE THOR IS BAFFLED, THE MORTAL DONALD BLAKE MAY FIND A CLUE!
BUT HOLD! A PATIENT WAITS... WITHIN HIS CHAMBER!
SHE IS MOST SORELY GRIEVED!
THE NEED MUST THUS BE GREAT!

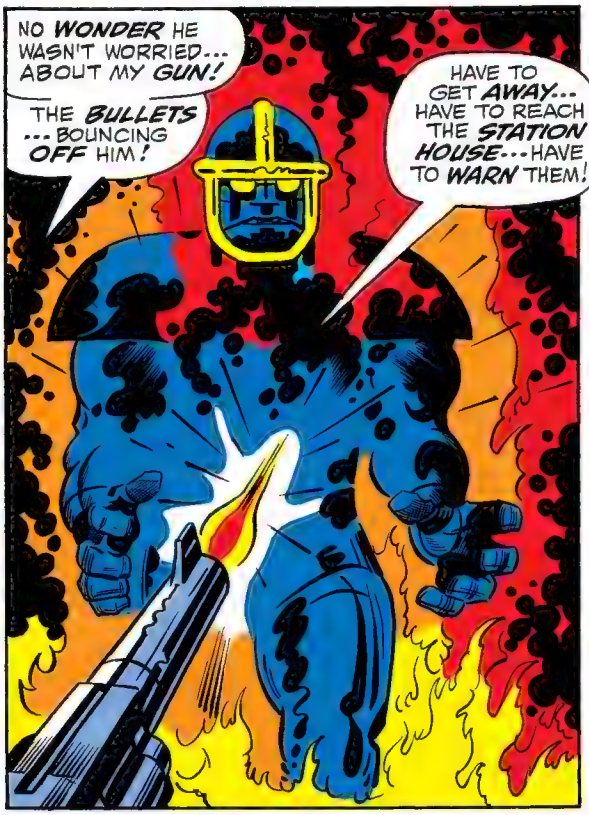

SHE TREMBLES!
SHE DOTH SEEM FAINT! SHE CLUTCHES AT HER HEART!
WHAT'ERE HER AIL-MENT...
...'TIS DR. BLAKE WHOM SHE DOTH NEED... FAR MORE THAN THUNDER GOD!
AND, 'TIS DR. BLAKE...
...THAT SHE SHALL FIND!
NOW TO REACH MY OFFICE... AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
SHE SEEMED SO TROUBLED... SO DISTRAUGHT! AND YET... I SENSED THAT HER PROBLEM IS MORE THAN PHYSICAL!
DR. BLAKE! IS.. IS THAT YOU... AT LAST?
WHY... I KNOW HER! I REMEMBER HER NOW!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER AT THE WINDOW... WITH HER HEAD BENT DOWN!
WHAT'S WRONG, MRS. WHYTE?
I.. I ONLY WISH I KNEW!
8


YOU'RE AGITATED... TREMBLING! AND YET... YOUR PULSE SEEMS NORMAL ENOUGH!
IT ISN'T ME, DOCTOR! I...ONLY WISH... IT WERE!
IT'S MY SON, JASPER! YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM-- HE'S A FEW YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM, MRS. WHYTE?
JASPER WHYTE! WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT NAME?
HE'S MISSING, DOCTOR... HE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE... MONTHS AGO!
VANISHED?
ISN'T THAT MORE OF A JOB FOR THE POLICE?
NO! HE LEFT HOME... OF HIS OWN FREE WILL! HE WAS ANGRY... MAD AT THE WHOLE WORLD!
MY HUSBAND IS DEAD! I'VE NO ONE TO TURN TO! AND THEN I REMEMBERED... MY SON WAS A SCIENTIST... SOMEWHAT LIKE YOU... ALTHOUGH HIS FIELD WAS PURE RESEARCH!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN HIM... OR HEARD SOMETHING!
HERE... I HAVE A PICTURE OF HIM!
HE'S BRILLIANT, DR. BLAKE! BUT HIS FELLOW SCIENTISTS WERE JEALOUS OF HIM... FEARED HIM! HE TOLD ME SO HIMSELF!
HE SWORE HE'D SHOW THEM-- HOW WRONG THEY WERE!
9

AT THAT VERY MOMENT... IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING CITY...
GO! LET NOTHING STOP YOU!
HOLY SMOKE!! WHAT'S THAT?!!
KEEP MOVING! YOU NEED FEAR NOTHING! NOTHING, DO YOU HEAR?
I... HAVE.. POWER!
PERFECT! PERFECT! YOUR STRENGTH IS ALL THAT I HAD HOPED IT WOULD BE!
BRAK!
NOW... LET THE POLICE LEARN HOW HELPLESS THEY ARE AGAINST YOU!
HEY! HOLD IT, YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST HERE, SAM... BUT I'LL KEEP 'IM COVERED WHILE YOU CALL THE PRECINCT!
HE'S LOOKING AT YOU.. LIKE THAT GUN MEANS NOTHING!


I... HAVE... POWER!
SKRASK!
HE'S LIFTING... THE WHOLE BLASTED SIDEWALK!

HE BROKE A GAS MAIN! FLAMES... LEAPING OUT!!
HE ISN'T HUMAN! HE.. HE'S STRONG AS A BULL-DOZER!


NO WONDER HE WASN'T WORRIED... ABOUT MY GUN!
THE BULLETS ... BOUNCING OFF HIM!
HAVE TO GET AWAY... HAVE TO REACH THE STATION HOUSE... HAVE TO WARN THEM!

THIS IS THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE!
I'VE DONE WHAT I SET OUT TO DO!
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STOP ME NOW!

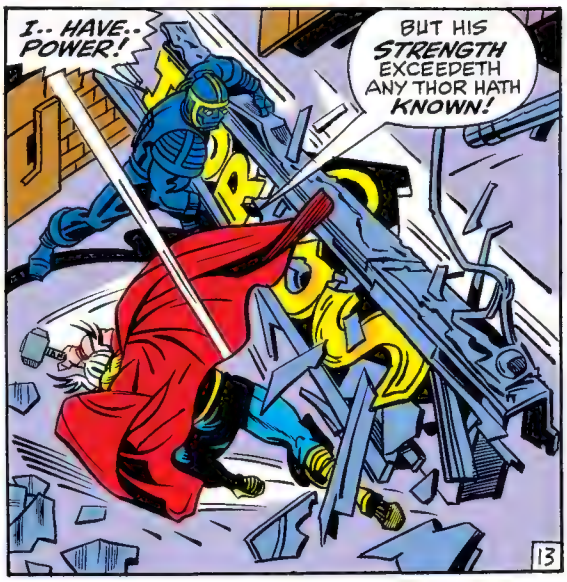
HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE WHOSE POWER IS---BUT, LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OUR TALE---
PERHAPS THE POLICE HAVE HAD SOME WORD OF JASPER WHYTE! I'LL CALL AND FIND OUT!
I WAITED TILL SHE LEFT...IN CASE THE NEWS IS---BAD!
LET ME TALK TO CAPTAIN DUNLAP!
WHAT'S THAT, CAPTAIN? NO TIME FOR MISSING PERSONS?
YOU SAY THERE'S A DEADLY, SUPER-STRONG BEING LOOSE IN THE CITY?!!
I WONDER--!
COULD THIS HAVE SOME CONNECTION ---WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
WELL, THERE'S NO NEED TO WASTE TIME SPECULATING---
---WHEN I CAN LEARN THE ANSWER---
---WITH ONE TAP OF MY WALKING STICK!
NOW TO LEARN WHAT MENACE DOTH STALK THE STREETS THIS NIGHT!
12

MINE EARS HEAR SIRENS YONDER!
IN THAT DIRECTION MUST THOR NOW FLY!

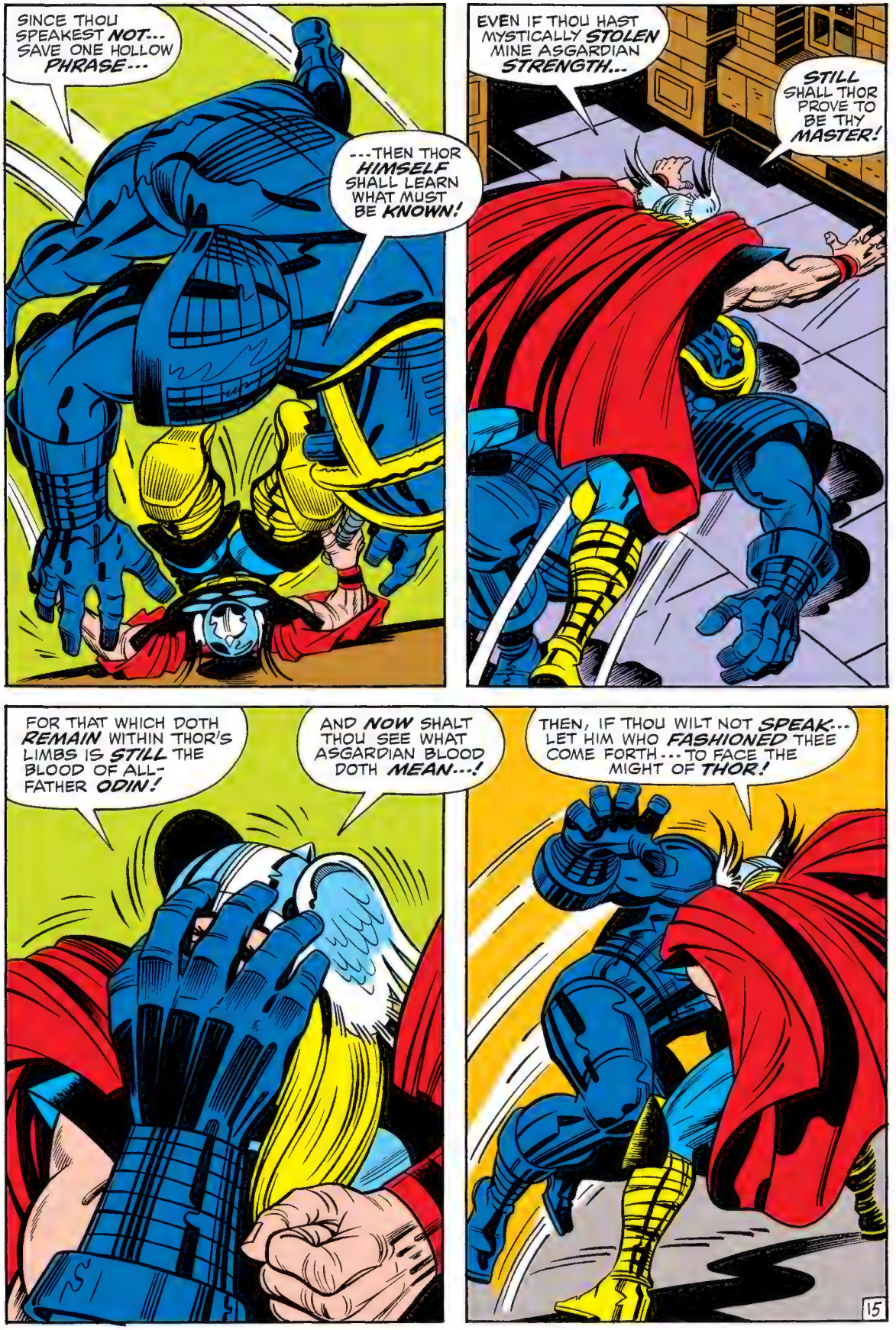
THOUGH MY STRENGTH HATH BEEN HALVED...
STILL AM I A MATCH FOR ANY WHO THREATEN MAN!
PARIS
POLICE

LET THY FIRING CEASE! THE THUNDER GOD HATH ARRIVED!
THOR? WE SURE CAN USE YA, MAN!
OUR SHELLS ARE USELESS AGAINST HIM!

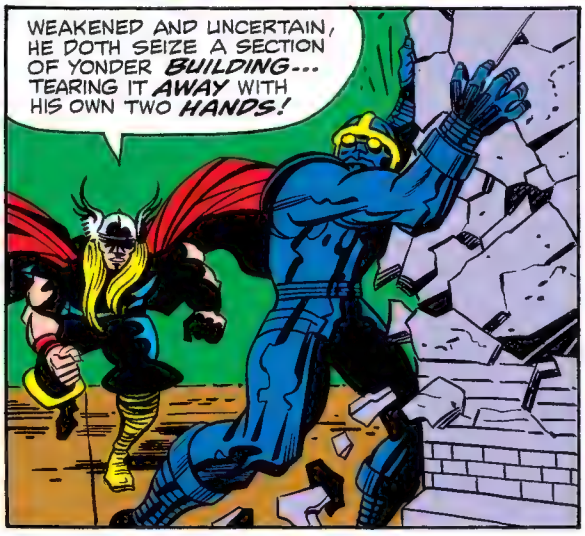
'TIS BUT A SINGLE FIGURE THAT DOTH FACE ME...
...WITH ALL THE SEEMING OF AN EARTHLY ROBOT!

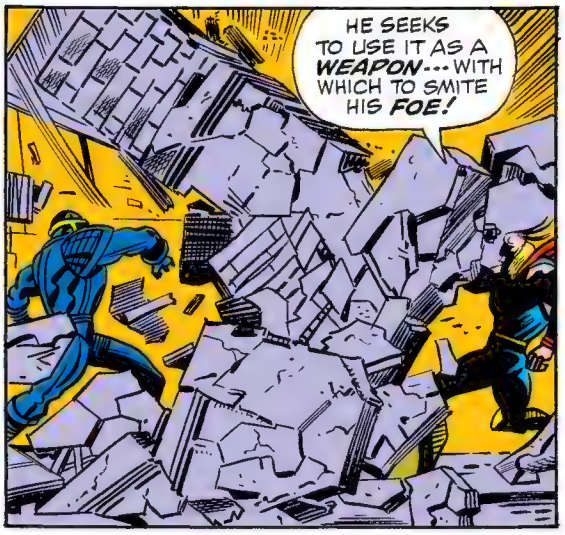

I.. HAVE.. POWER!
BUT HIS STRENGTH EXCEEDETH ANY THOR HATH KNOWN!

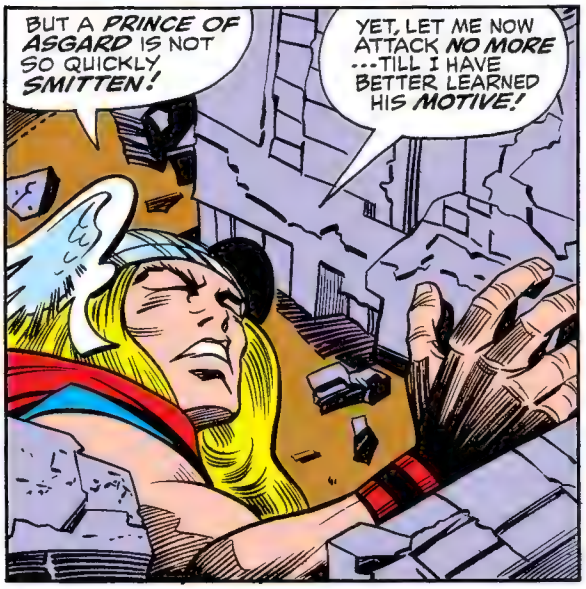
KONG!
LET CEASE THY FUTILE CARNAGE!
THE THUNDER GOD WOULDST KNOW WHO HATH COMMANDED THEE!
I...HAVE...POWER!
MY WRIST IS SEIZED...WITH A GRIP LIKE UNTO MINE OWN!
AND...A BLOW... WHICH CONTAINETH THE POWER OF ASGARD!
YET...NEVER WERT SUCH AS THEE SPAWNED WITHIN THE FABLED REALM!
'TIS ALMOST AS THOUGH...THOU HAST THE POWER THOR HATH LOST!
AND YET... HOW CANST THAT BE?!!
14

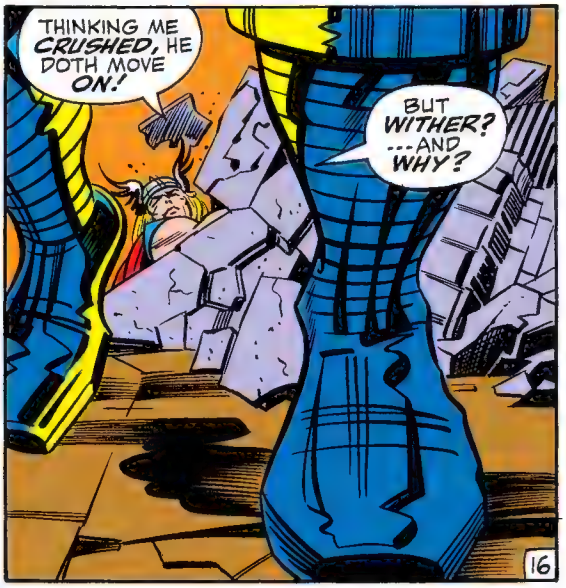

SINCE THOU SPEAKEST NOT... SAVE ONE HOLLOW PHRASE...
---THEN THOR HIMSELF SHALL LEARN WHAT MUST BE KNOWN!
EVEN IF THOU HAST MYSTICALLY STOLEN MINE ASGARDIAN STRENGTH...
STILL SHALL THOR PROVE TO BE THY MASTER!
FOR THAT WHICH DOTH REMAIN WITHIN THOR'S LIMBS IS STILL THE BLOOD OF ALL-FATHER ODIN!
AND NOW SHALT THOU SEE WHAT ASGARDIAN BLOOD DOTH MEAN---!
THEN, IF THOU WILT NOT SPEAK... LET HIM WHO FASHIONED THEE COME FORTH--- TO FACE THE MIGHT OF THOR!
15

FOR WHOSOEVER THREATENS MAN--- TO THE THUNDER GOD MUST ANSWER!


WEAKENED AND UNCERTAIN, HE DOTH SEIZE A SECTION OF YONDER BUILDING--- TEARING IT AWAY WITH HIS OWN TWO HANDS!

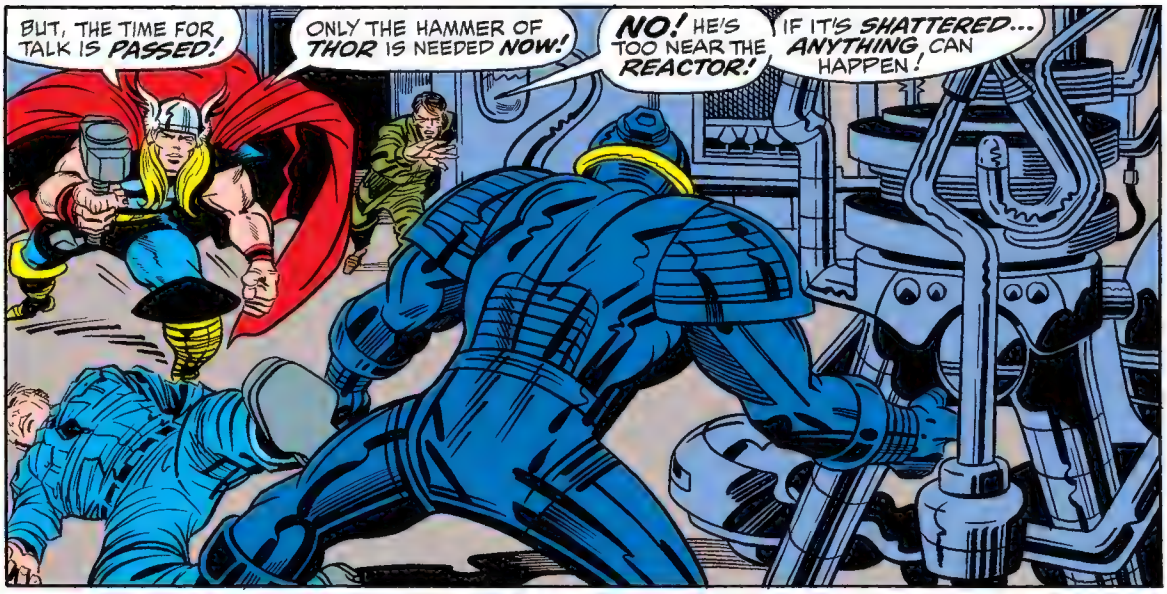

HE SEEKS TO USE IT AS A WEAPON--- WITH WHICH TO SMITE HIS FOE!

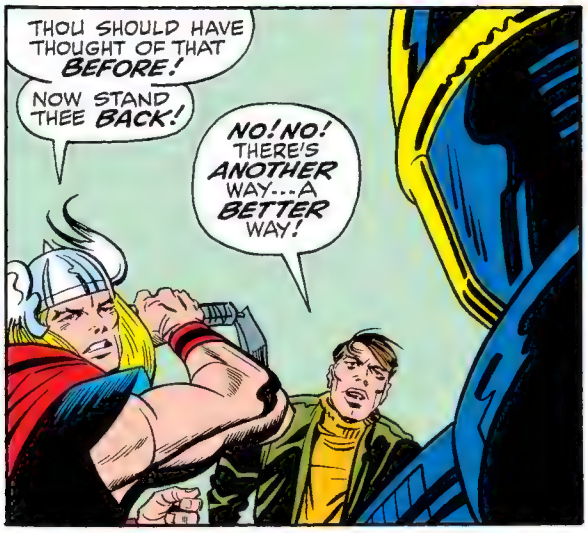

BUT A PRINCE OF ASGARD IS NOT SO QUICKLY SMITTEN!
YET, LET ME NOW ATTACK NO MORE ---TILL I HAVE BETTER LEARNED HIS MOTIVE!


THINKING ME CRUSHED, HE DOTH MOVE ON!
BUT WITHER? ---AND WHY?

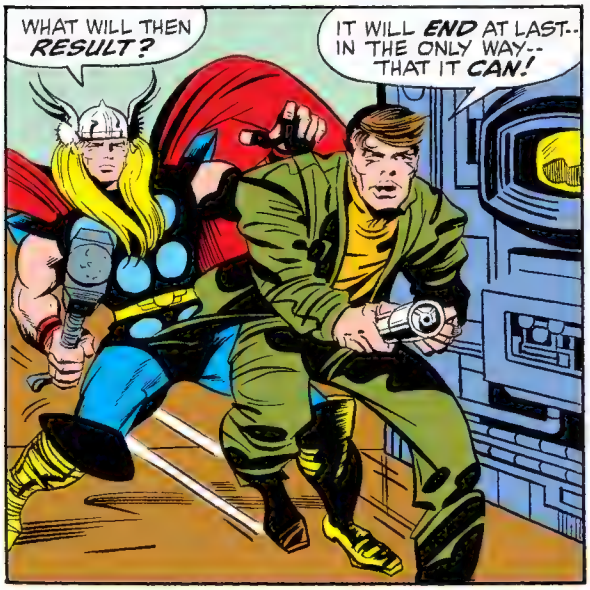
AND THEN--- IT HAPPENS...!
AN ONLOOKER HATH BROKEN FROM THE BARRIER!
HE STANDS--- OBSERVING ME!
BUT--- I HAVE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE! 'TIS THE MISSING JASPER WHYTE!
IT'S NO FUN WINNING--- UNLESS THE ONE YOU'VE BEATEN KNOWS THAT YOU'RE THE VICTOR!
I DEFEATED YOU, THUNDER GOD!
...JUST AS MY CRYPTO-MAN WILL DEFEAT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO STAND IN MY WAY!
BREAKING FREE WON'T HELP YOU NOW!
WHAT HATH FILLED THY HEART WITH SUCH BURNING HATRED?
EVERYONE WHO LAUGHED AT ME--- WHO WOULDN'T LISTEN TO MY THEORIES!
THEORIES SUCH AS PURLOINING THE STRENGTH OF ANOTHER BEING?
I KNOW WHO THOU ART, JASPER WHYTE--- AND I KNOW WHAT THOU HAST DONE!
THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW YOU'LL NEVER GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK TILL MY CREATION IS DEFEATED!
AND NO ONE CAN DEFEAT THE CRYPTO-MAN!

TOO LONG HAVE WE SPOKEN!
MY PREY HATH VANISHED! I MUST FIND HIM!
WHY BOTHER? HE BEAT YOU ONCE... HE'LL DO IT AGAIN!
THOU DOST PRESUME TOO MUCH!
HOLD! THE EARS OF THOR HEAR HEAVY FOOT-FALLS THUNDERING BELOW!
HE'S PLODDING THRU THE SEWER SYSTEM ---JUST AS HE'S SUPPOSED TO DO!
HIS TARGET IS THE NEW ATOMIC POWER ELECTRIC COMPLEX --- NEAR THE WATER-FRONT!
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
THE POWER OF THE ATOM MAY NOT BE TAMPERED WITH BY SUCH AS THEE!
ONCE HE REACHES IT, THE WHOLE CITY WILL BE MY HOSTAGE!
HAH! HE'S ALREADY BROKEN THRU THE STEEL WALL... INTO THE INNER COMPOUND!
HAST THOU NO THOUGHT FOR THE LIVES THOU ART PLACING IN JEOPARDY?
WARNING
ATOMIC
PLANT
IF AUGHT SHOULD GO AMISS... THOUSANDS MIGHT PERISH!
AND AMONGST THEM, JASPER WHYTE --- COULD BE-- THY MOTHER!
18


BUT, THE TIME FOR TALK IS PASSED!
ONLY THE HAMMER OF THOR IS NEEDED NOW!
NO! HE'S TOO NEAR THE REACTOR!
IF IT'S SHATTERED... ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!


THOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE!
NOW STAND THEE BACK!
NO! NO! THERE'S ANOTHER WAY... A BETTER WAY!

MY CONTROL BEAM!
IF I CAN ADJUST IT... I'LL DOUBLE THE VOLTAGE OF MAXIMUM BLAST..!


WHAT WILL THEN RESULT?
IT WILL END AT LAST.. IN THE ONLY WAY-- THAT IT CAN!

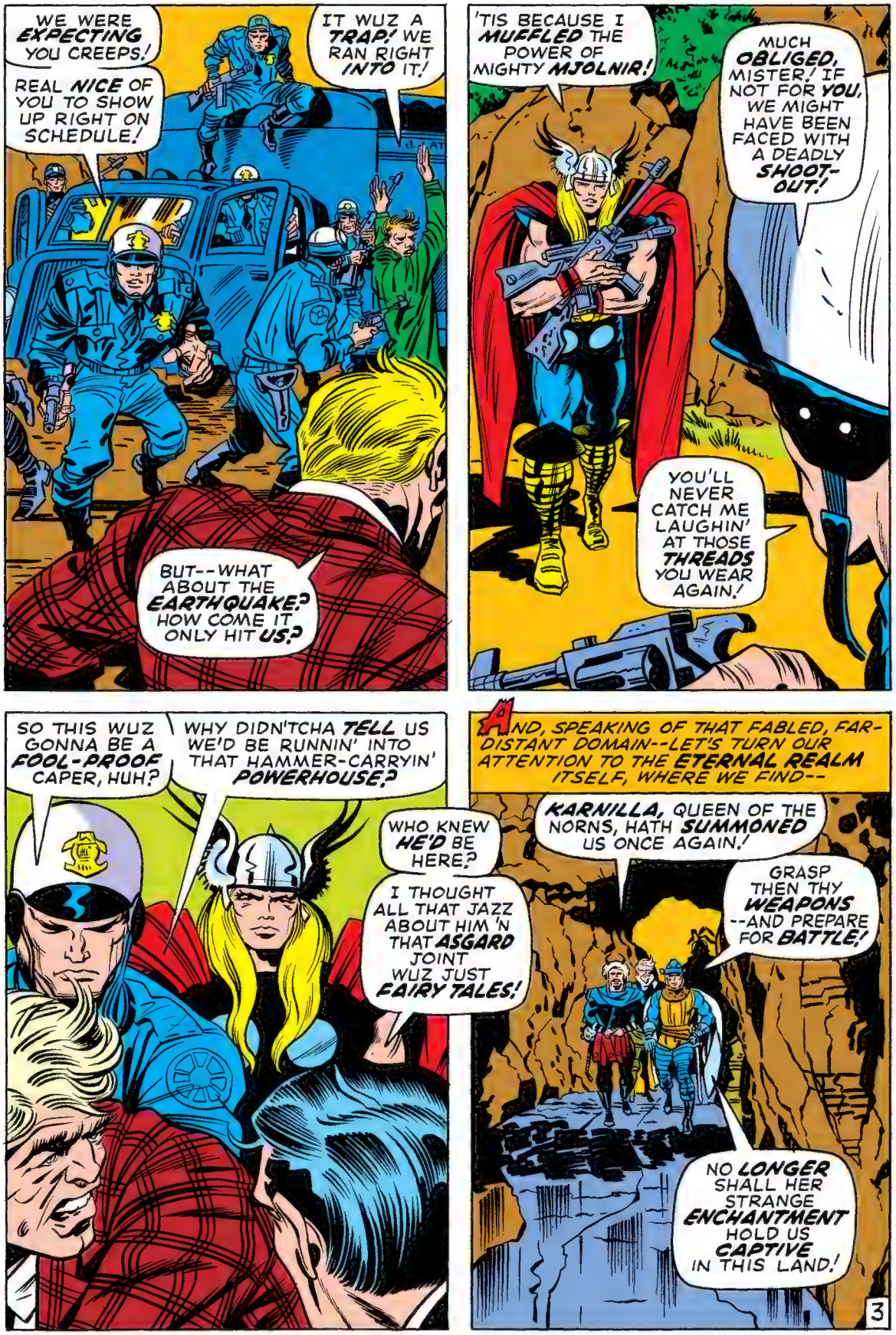
EVEN THOUGH I CREATED YOU... I HAVE TO DO THIS --- I HAVE TO!
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND! YOU MUST FORGIVE ME!
I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT... MY MOTHER!

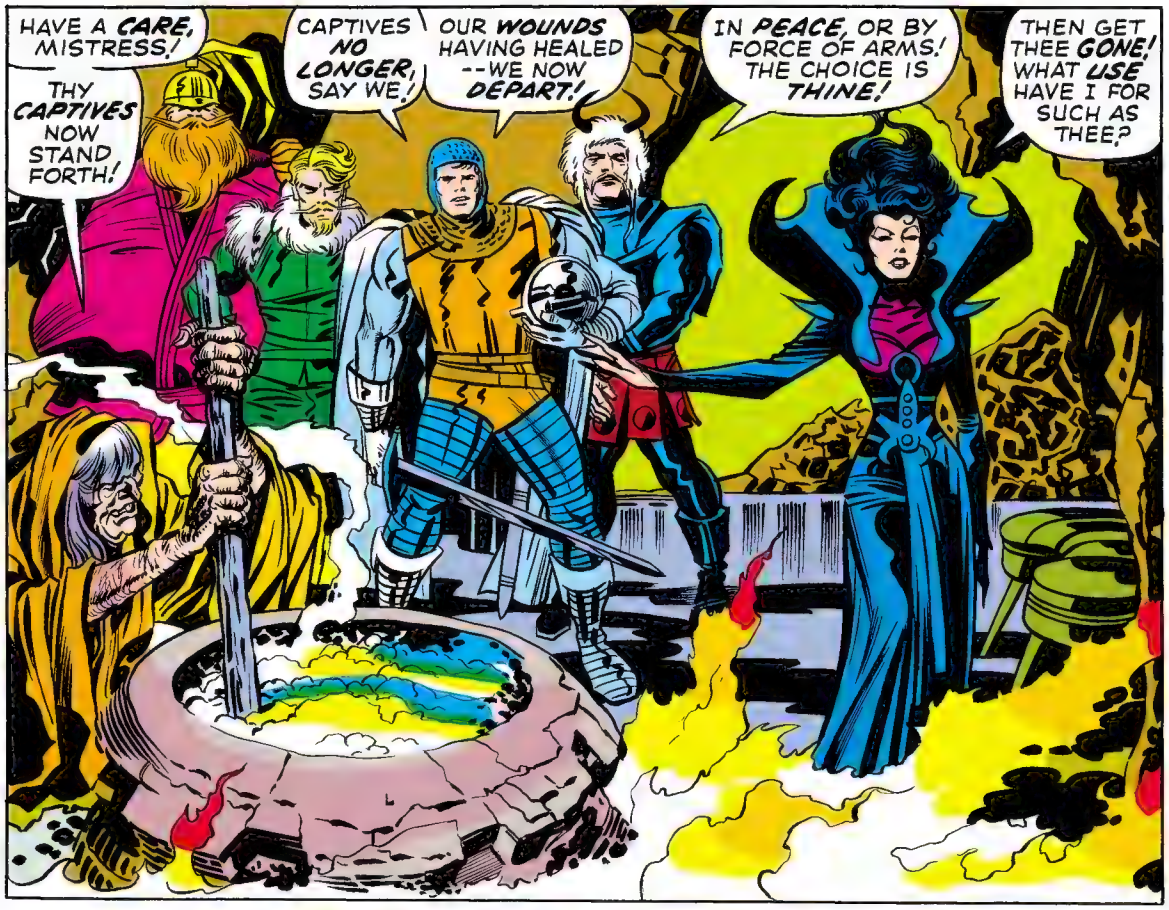
SHOOSH!
HE HATH SPOKEN... THE TRUTH!
THEY ARE FALLEN! AND NEITHER SHALL RISE AGAIN!
E'EN NOW... AS HE HATH SAID... THE STRENGTH RETURNS TO THE SON OF ODIN'S LIMBS!
BUT MY TASK IS NOT YET O'ER...
THE MOST TRAGIC PART DOTH YET REMAIN!
THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER...
I... LEARNED THE FATE... OF YOUR SON, MRS. WHYTE!
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT... IT HAD TO DO... WITH A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT!
WHATEVER HIS FAULTS... WHATEVER HIS WEAKNESSES... I CAN TELL YOU THIS...
JASPER WHYTE DIED... THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE! HE DIED THE DEATH OF... A HERO!
I CANNOT LESSEN HER GRIEF... BUT PERHAPS I WAS ABLE... TO EASE THE PAIN!
NOW I MUST LEAVE HER... WITH A MOTHER'S HEARTBREAK...
BUT, THERE'LL ALSO BE A PLACE IN HER HEART... FOR A MOTHER'S PRIDE!
NEXT
THE FALL OF ASGARD!

THOR
15¢
175
APR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE FALL OF ASGARD!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE FALL OF ASGARD!
GIT READY, YOU GUYS! HERE COME OUR PIGEONS!
THIS'LL BE DUCK SOUP FOR US!
OKAY! WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR?
LET'S GO!
PRODUCED BY: STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
BILL EVERETT INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
135

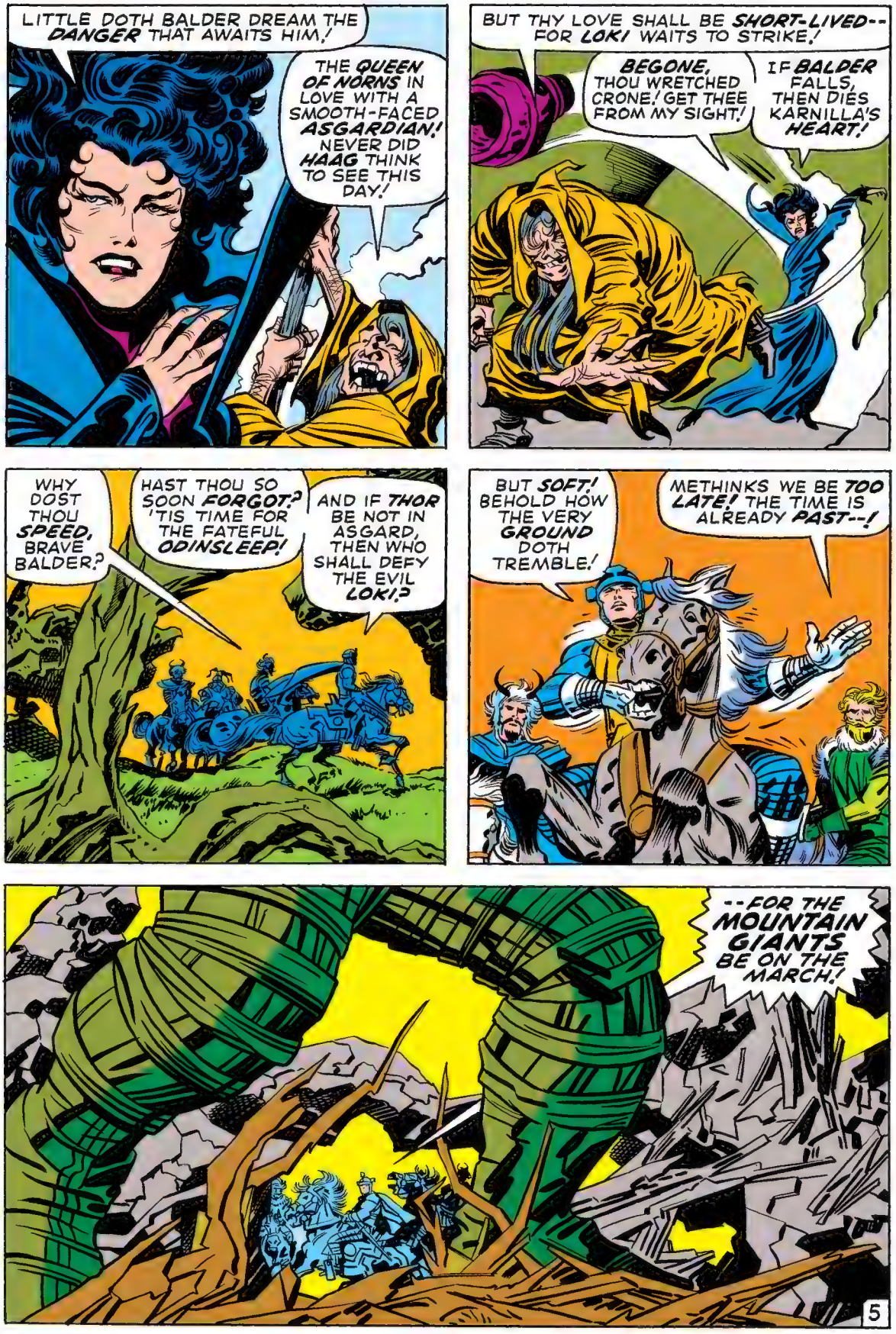
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WE'RE GONNA SAVE YA THE TROUBLE OF UNLOADIN' THAT STUFF!
THE TIME HATH COME FOR THE THUNDER GOD TO HALT YON BRAZEN CRIME!
BUT LET IT BE DONE WITH INJURY TO NONE!
A SIMPLE SHOCK WAVE SHALL SERVE TO SUIT MY PURPOSE!
WHAT WUZ THAT?
SOMETHIN'--KNOCKED THE CHOPPERS--RIGHT OUTTA OUR HANDS!
THE WHOLE ROAD'S SHAKIN' LIKE CRAZY!
2


WE WERE EXPECTING YOU CREEPS!
REAL NICE OF YOU TO SHOW UP RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
IT WUZ A TRAP! WE RAN RIGHT INTO IT!
BUT--WHAT ABOUT THE EARTHQUAKE? HOW COME IT ONLY HIT US?
'TIS BECAUSE I MUFFLED THE POWER OF MIGHTY MJOLNIR!
MUCH OBLIGED, MISTER! IF NOT FOR YOU, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FACED WITH A DEADLY SHOOT-OUT!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME LAUGHIN' AT THOSE THREADS YOU WEAR AGAIN!
SO THIS WUZ GONNA BE A FOOL-PROOF CAPER, HUH?
WHY DIDN'TCHA TELL US WE'D BE RUNNIN' INTO THAT HAMMER-CARRYIN' POWERHOUSE?
WHO KNEW HE'D BE HERE?
I THOUGHT ALL THAT JAZZ ABOUT HIM 'N THAT ASGARD JOINT WUZ JUST FAIRY TALES!
AND, SPEAKING OF THAT FABLED, FAR-DISTANT DOMAIN--LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE ETERNAL REALM ITSELF, WHERE WE FIND--
KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE NORNS, HATH SUMMONED US ONCE AGAIN!
GRASP THEN THY WEAPONS --AND PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
NO LONGER SHALL HER STRANGE ENCHANTMENT HOLD US CAPTIVE IN THIS LAND!
3

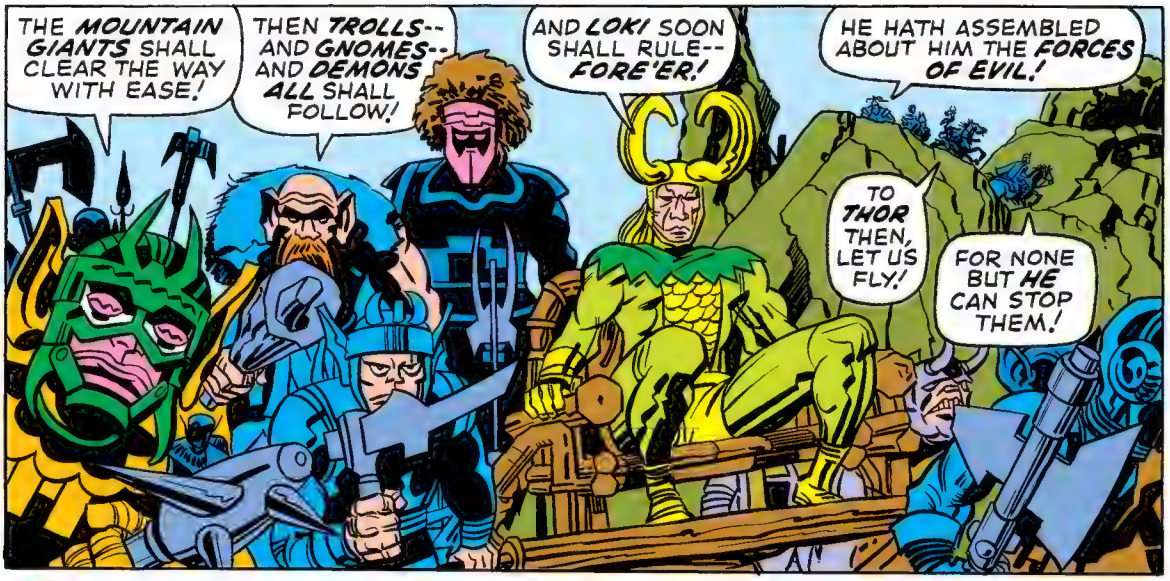

HAVE A CARE, MISTRESS!
THY CAPTIVES NOW STAND FORTH!
CAPTIVES NO LONGER, SAY WE!
OUR WOUNDS HAVING HEALED --WE NOW DEPART!
IN PEACE, OR BY FORCE OF ARMS! THE CHOICE IS THINE!
THEN GET THEE GONE! WHAT USE HAVE I FOR SUCH AS THEE?

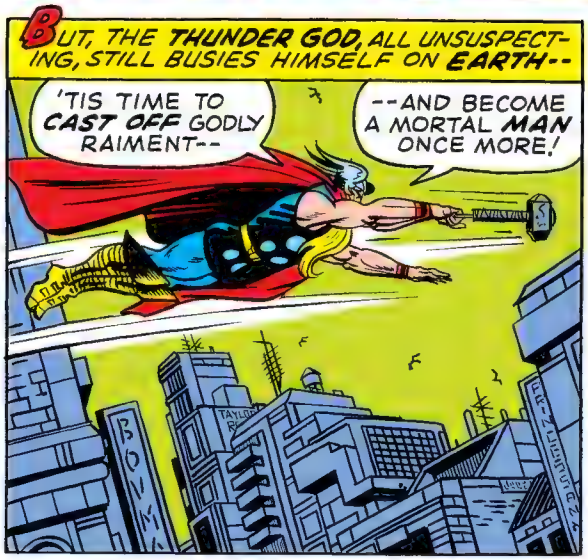
ONE OF THEE I DID FIND FAIR--AND PLEASING TO MINE EYES!
BUT HE IS PLEDGED TO ASGARD--AND I AM FOE OF ASGARD--FOR I AM QUEEN OF NORNS!
BUT WHY? WHY MUST THERE BE ENMITY BETWEEN THY DOMAIN AND ODIN'S REALM?
BECAUSE, ALAS--'TIS SO ORDAINED!

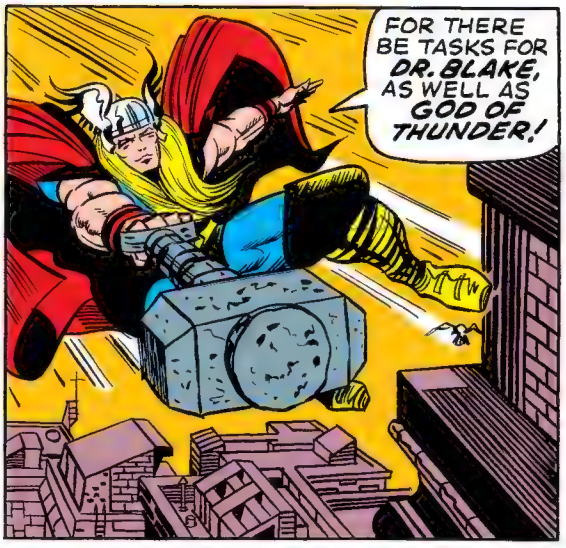
THEN THERE BE NOTHING MORE TO SAY!
BEAUTEOUS QUEEN--WE BID THEE NOW--FAREWELL!
THE LION HEART OF VOLSTAGG HATH BEEN CHEATED! 'TWAS BATTLE I DID CRAVE!
THEN LET US RETURN, AND SOUND THE CHALLENGE!
NAY, HOGUN--NAY! THOUGH I BE FEARLESS--I MUST SHOW MERCY TO MY FOES!

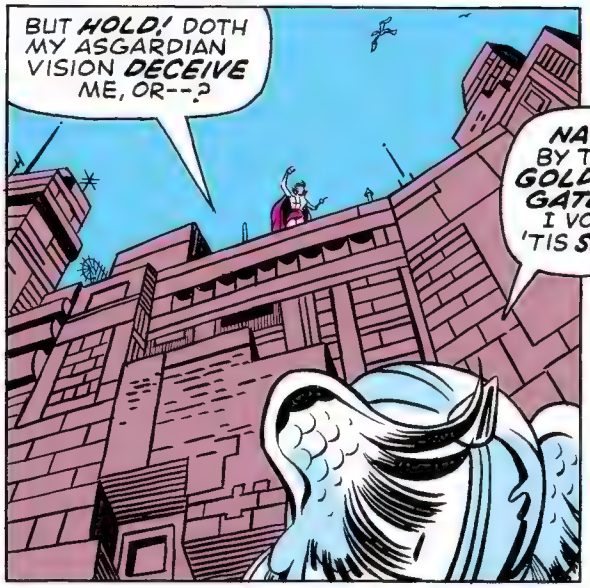

LITTLE DOTH BALDER DREAM THE DANGER THAT AWAITS HIM!
THE QUEEN OF NORNS IN LOVE WITH A SMOOTH-FACED ASGARDIAN! NEVER DID HAAG THINK TO SEE THIS DAY!
BUT THY LOVE SHALL BE SHORT-LIVED-- FOR LOKI WAITS TO STRIKE!
BEGONE, THOU WRETCHED CRONE! GET THEE FROM MY SIGHT!
IF BALDER FALLS, THEN DIES KARNILLA'S HEART!
WHY DOST THOU SPEED, BRAVE BALDER?
HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOT? 'TIS TIME FOR THE FATEFUL ODINSLEEP!
AND IF THOR BE NOT IN ASGARD, THEN WHO SHALL DEFY THE EVIL LOKI?
BUT SOFT! BEHOLD HOW THE VERY GROUND DOTH TREMBLE!
METHINKS WE BE TOO LATE! THE TIME IS ALREADY PAST--!
--FOR THE MOUNTAIN GIANTS BE ON THE MARCH!
5

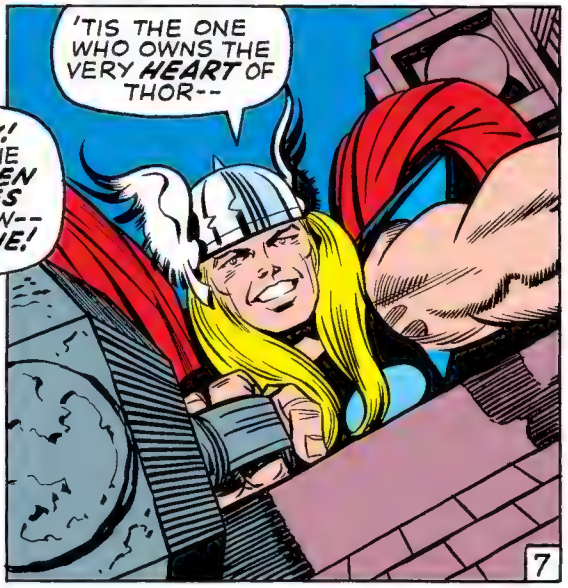
ONWARD TO ASGARD!
--FOR LOKI HATH GATHERED THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY US!
'TIS A DARK AND DISMAL SIGHT WE SEE--
WE HAVE NOT THE POWER TO GIVE THEM PAUSE!

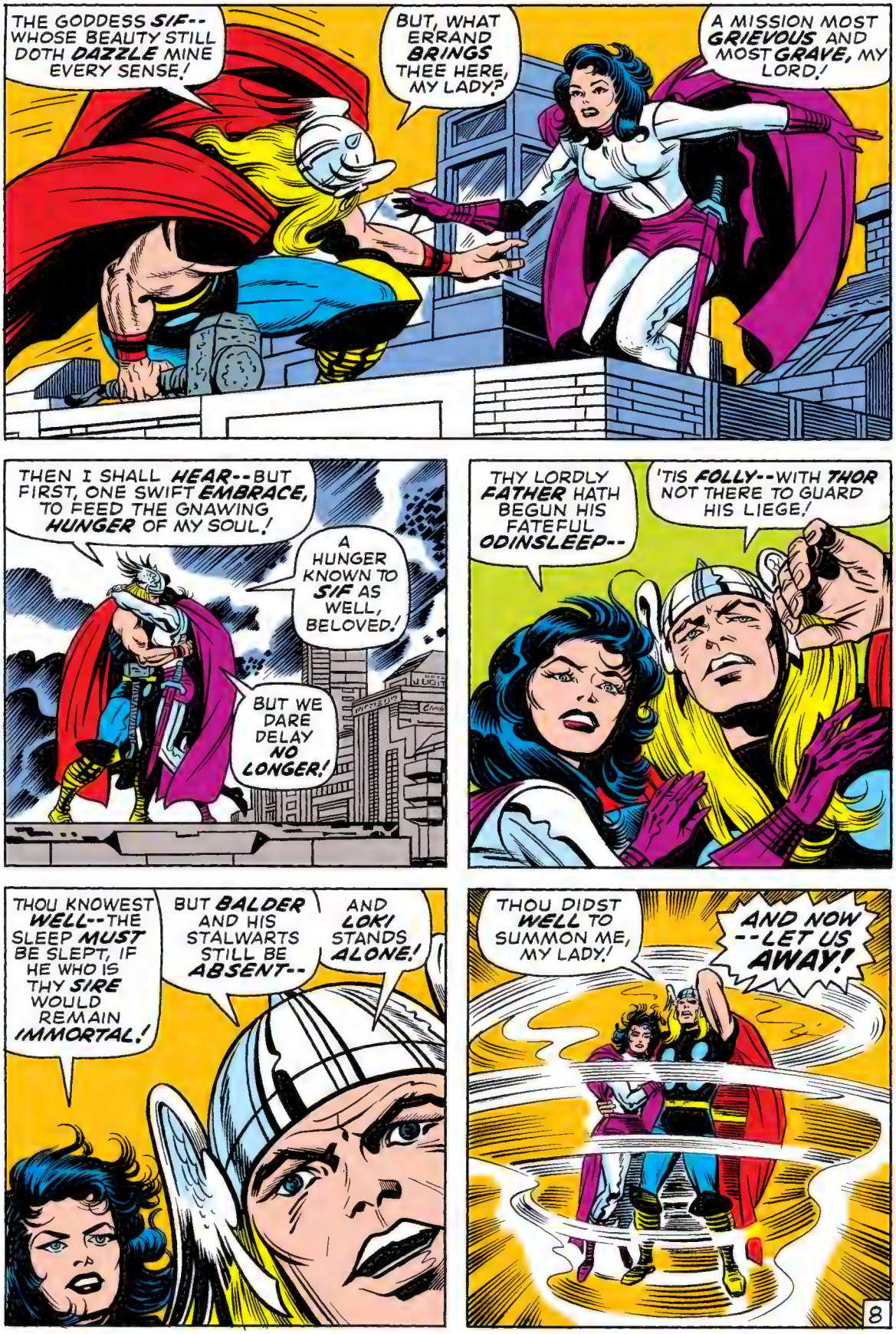

THE MOUNTAIN GIANTS SHALL CLEAR THE WAY WITH EASE!
THEN TROLLS-- AND GNOMES-- AND DEMONS ALL SHALL FOLLOW!
AND LOKI SOON SHALL RULE-- FORE'ER!
HE HATH ASSEMBLED ABOUT HIM THE FORCES OF EVIL!
TO THOR THEN, LET US FLY!
FOR NONE BUT HE CAN STOP THEM!

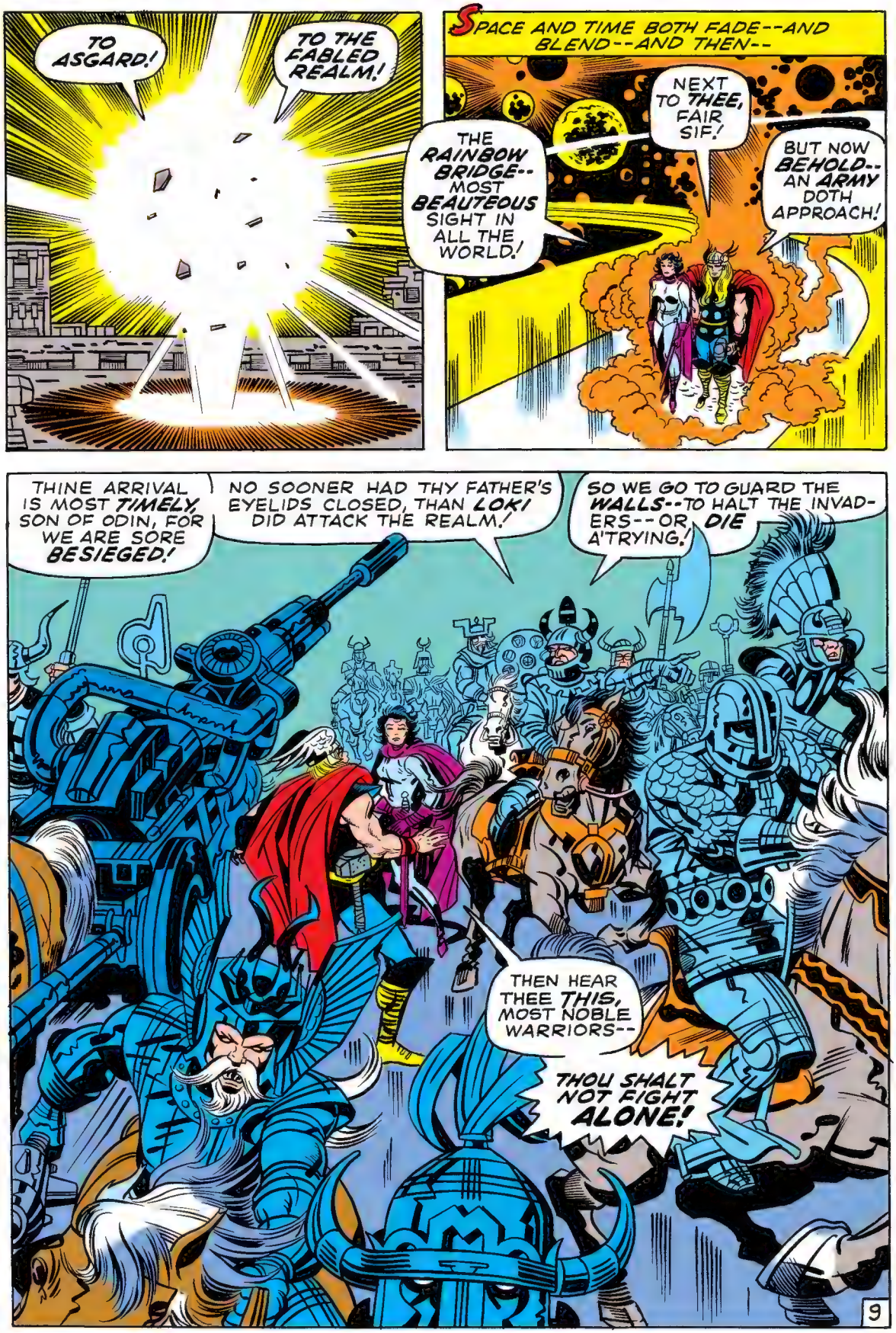

BUT, THE THUNDER GOD, ALL UNSUSPECTING, STILL BUSIES HIMSELF ON EARTH--
'TIS TIME TO CAST OFF GODLY RAIMENT--
--AND BECOME A MORTAL MAN ONCE MORE!


FOR THERE BE TASKS FOR DR. BLAKE, AS WELL AS GOD OF THUNDER!


BUT HOLD! DOTH MY ASGARDIAN VISION DECEIVE ME, OR--?
NAY! BY THE GOLDEN GATES I VOW-- 'TIS SHE!


'TIS THE ONE WHO OWNS THE VERY HEART OF THOR--

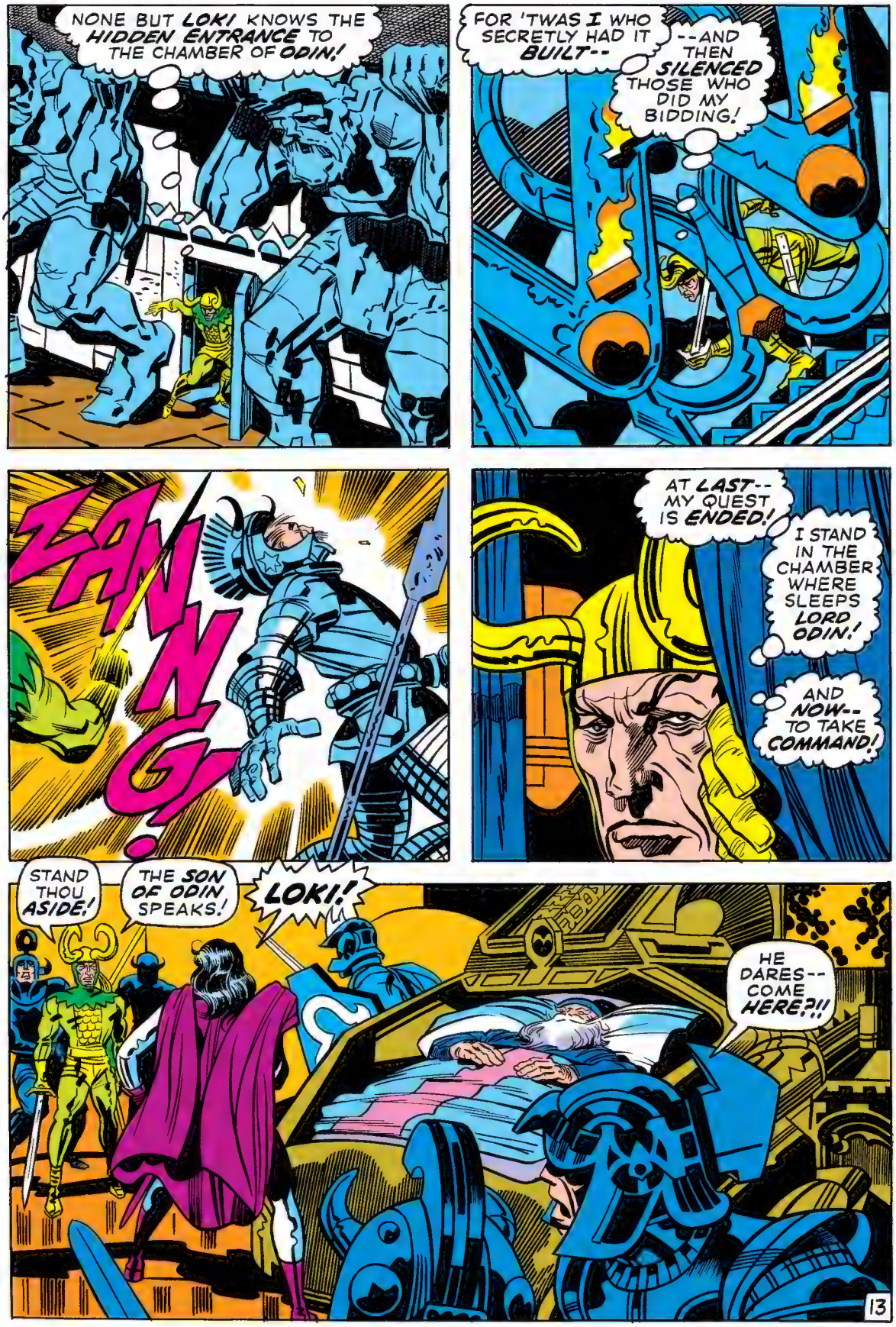

THE GODDESS SIF-- WHOSE BEAUTY STILL DOTH DAZZLE MINE EVERY SENSE!
BUT, WHAT ERRAND BRINGS THEE HERE, MY LADY?
A MISSION MOST GRIEVOUS AND MOST GRAVE, MY LORD!
THEN I SHALL HEAR--BUT FIRST, ONE SWIFT EMBRACE, TO FEED THE GNAWING HUNGER OF MY SOUL!
A HUNGER KNOWN TO SIF AS WELL, BELOVED!
BUT WE DARE DELAY NO LONGER!
THY LORDLY FATHER HATH BEGUN HIS FATEFUL ODINSLEEP--
'TIS FOLLY--WITH THOR NOT THERE TO GUARD HIS LIEGE!
THOU KNOWEST WELL--THE SLEEP MUST BE SLEPT, IF HE WHO IS THY SIRE WOULD REMAIN IMMORTAL!
BUT BALDER AND HIS STALWARTS STILL BE ABSENT--
AND LOKI STANDS ALONE!
THOU DIDST WELL TO SUMMON ME, MY LADY!
AND NOW --LET US AWAY!
8

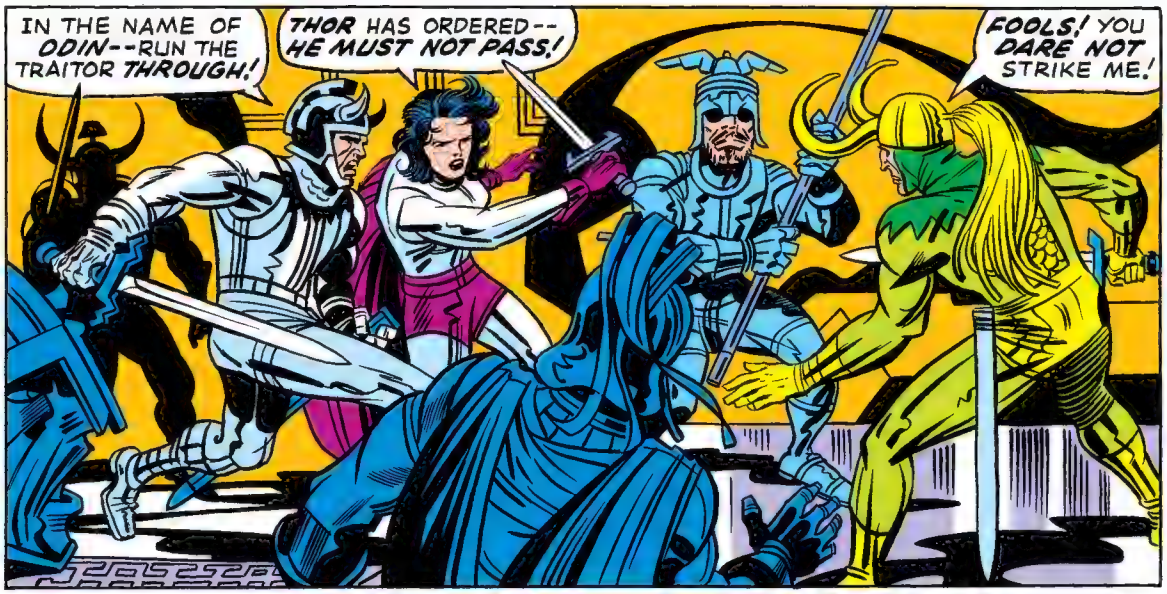

TO ASGARD!
TO THE FABLED REALM!
SPACE AND TIME BOTH FADE--AND BLEND--AND THEN--
THE RAINBOW BRIDGE--MOST BEAUTEOUS SIGHT IN ALL THE WORLD!
NEXT TO THEE, FAIR SIF!
BUT NOW BEHOLD--AN ARMY DOTH APPROACH!
THINE ARRIVAL IS MOST TIMELY, SON OF ODIN, FOR WE ARE SORE BESIEGED!
NO SOONER HAD THY FATHER'S EYELIDS CLOSED, THAN LOKI DID ATTACK THE REALM!
SO WE GO TO GUARD THE WALLS--TO HALT THE INVADERS--OR DIE A'TRYING!
THEN HEAR THEE THIS, MOST NOBLE WARRIORS--
THOU SHALT NOT FIGHT ALONE!
9

IN THE NAME OF ODIN-- ONWARD!
EVEN NOW--THE SOUND OF BATTLE DOTH ASSAIL MINE EARS!
'TIS HERE WE PART, MY LADY!
I GO TO BATTLE--AND THOU TO THE SIDE OF ODIN--
--TO GUARD HIM TILL HE WAKES!
MAY FORTUNE FOLLOW THEE, MY LORD!
MOUNTAIN GIANTS-- WITHIN THE GATES!
IF THEY BE NOT STOPPED-- WE PERISH!
10

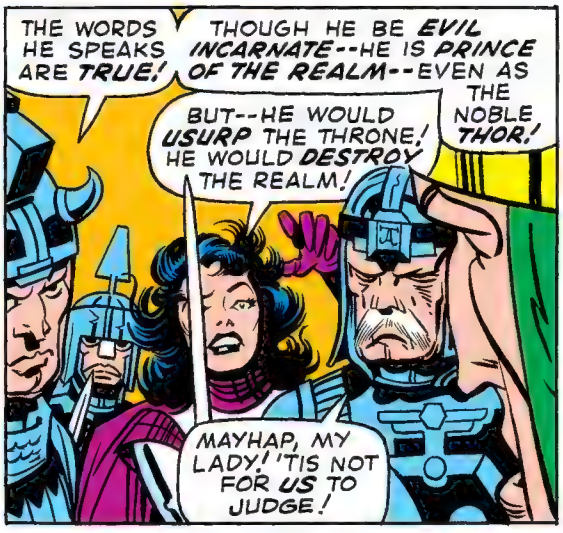
BUT ASGARD SHALL NOT PERISH!!
DEATH TO THE SON OF ODIN!
I'LL NOT BE HALTED BY THE LIKES OF THEE!
'TIS LOKI I MUST FIND!
WARRIORS-- GUARD MY FLANK!
FOR TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
STAND FAST 'GAINST THE LIMBS OF THE ENEMY--
WHILST THOR SPEEDS TO FELL ITS HEAD!
SWOOSH!

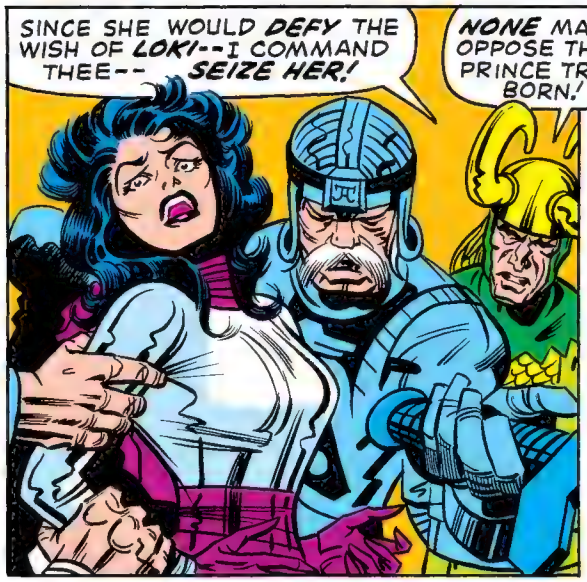
'TWAS LOKI SIGNALLED YON ATTACK--
'TIS ONLY HE CAN HALT IT!
IF THOU WOULDST FIND THE GOD OF EVIL--
THOU MUST FACE HIM--AS A SLAVE!
THIS ONCE--THE VICTORY IS HIS!
THE BATTLE GOES WELL! METHINKS 'TWILL SOON BE ENDED!
THEN BEGINS THE REIGN OF--LOKI!
BUT, WHILST THE CONFLICT CONTINUES, I'LL STEAL AWAY!
--FOR MY MOMENT SUPREME IS ALMOST AT HAND!
12


NONE BUT LOKI KNOWS THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE TO THE CHAMBER OF ODIN!
FOR 'TWAS I WHO SECRETLY HAD IT BUILT--
--AND THEN SILENCED THOSE WHO DID MY BIDDING!
ZANNG!
AT LAST-- MY QUEST IS ENDED!
I STAND IN THE CHAMBER WHERE SLEEPS LORD ODIN!
AND NOW-- TO TAKE COMMAND!
STAND THOU ASIDE!
THE SON OF ODIN SPEAKS!
LOKI!
HE DARES-- COME HERE?!!
13

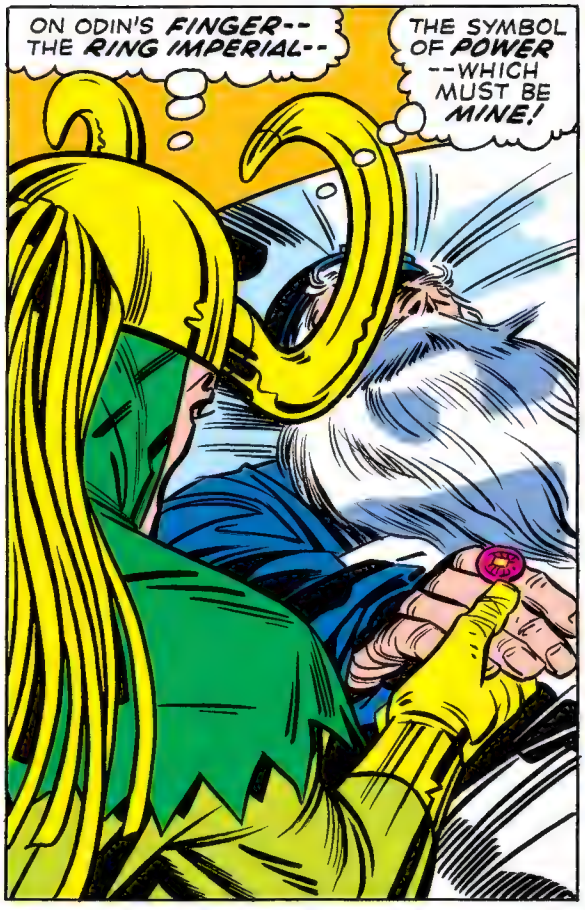

IN THE NAME OF ODIN--RUN THE TRAITOR THROUGH!
THOR HAS ORDERED--HE MUST NOT PASS!
FOOLS! YOU DARE NOT STRIKE ME!

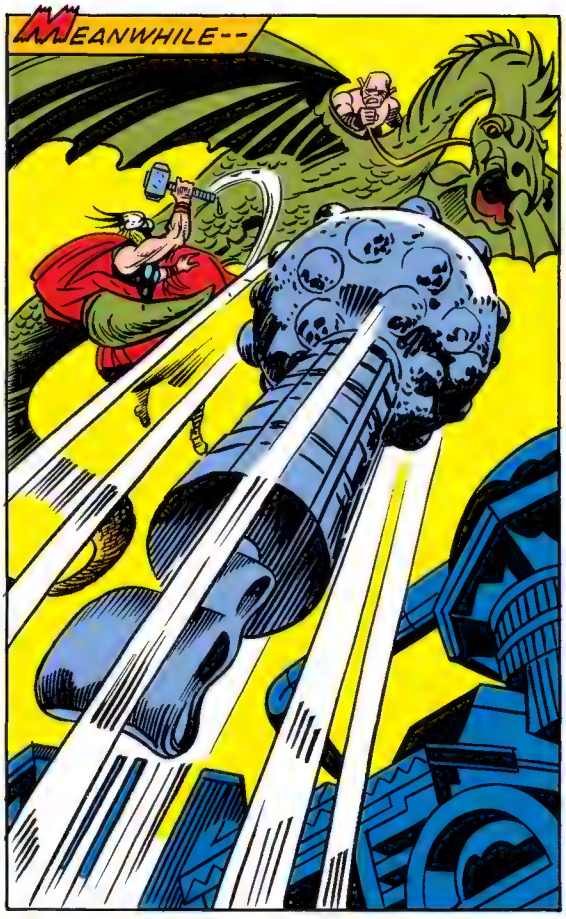
AM I NOT BLOOD OF ODIN'S BLOOD? AM I NOT FLESH OF ODIN'S FLESH?

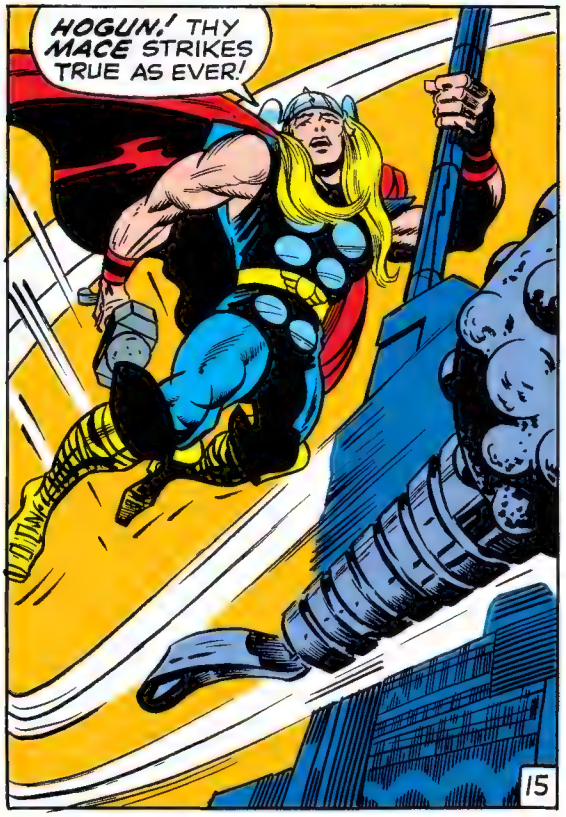

THE WORDS HE SPEAKS ARE TRUE!
THOUGH HE BE EVIL INCARNATE--HE IS PRINCE OF THE REALM--EVEN AS THE NOBLE THOR!
BUT--HE WOULD USURP THE THRONE! HE WOULD DESTROY THE REALM!
MAYHAP, MY LADY! 'TIS NOT FOR US TO JUDGE!


SINCE SHE WOULD DEFY THE WISH OF LOKI--I COMMAND THEE--SEIZE HER!
NONE MAY OPPOSE THE PRINCE TRUE-BORN!

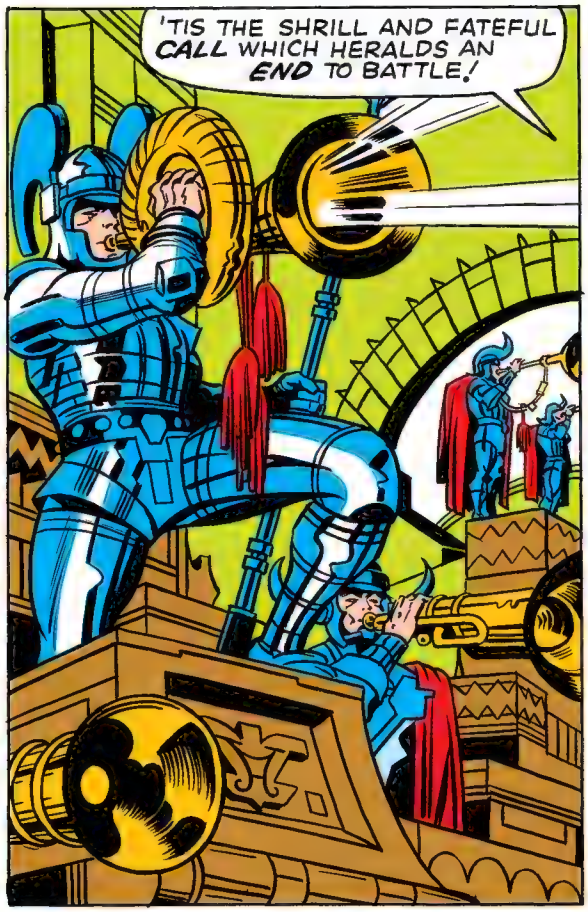
AND NOW--A UNIVERSE IS ALMOST WITHIN MY GRASP--

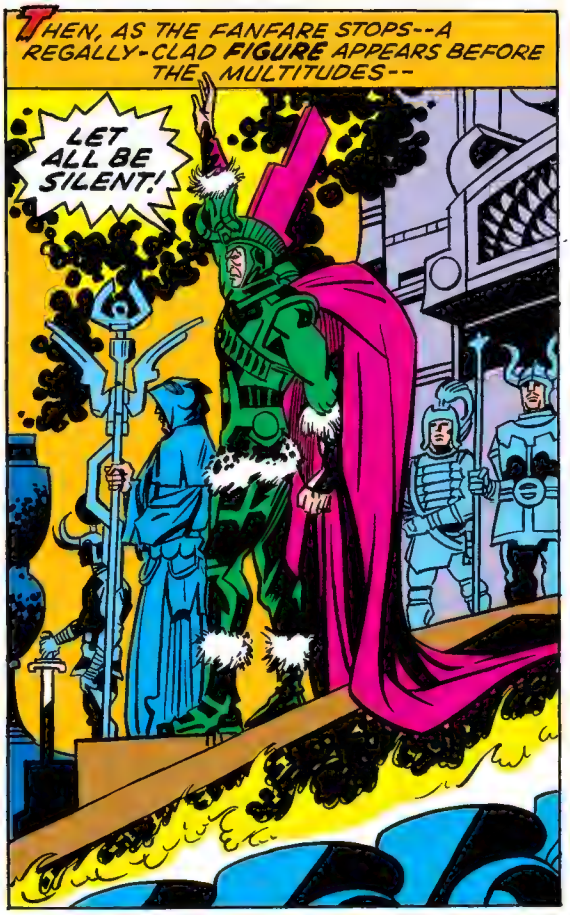

ON ODIN'S FINGER-- THE RING IMPERIAL--
THE SYMBOL OF POWER --WHICH MUST BE MINE!

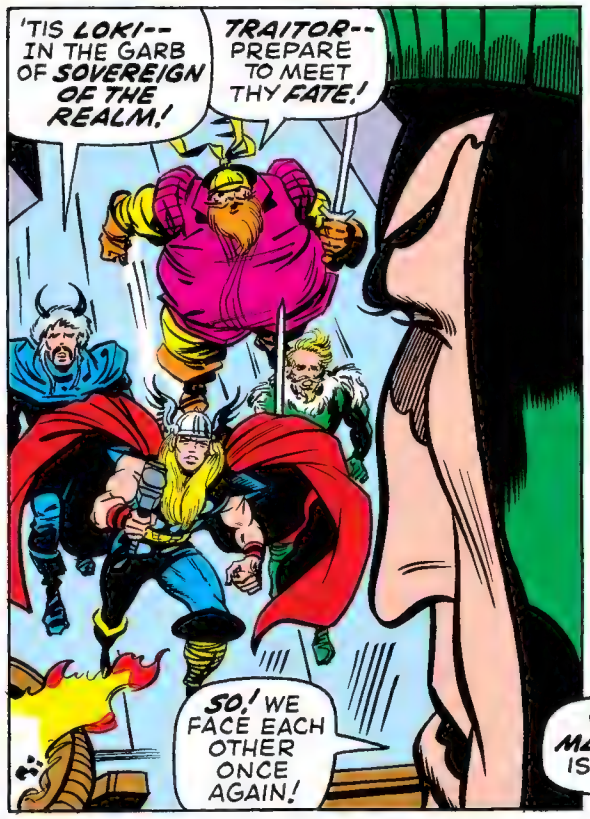

MEANWHILE--


HOGUN.! THY MACE STRIKES TRUE AS EVER!

LONG HAVE WE AWAITED THEE, MY PRINCE!
WE KNEW THOU WOULDST NOT FAIL US!
ONLY SIX TO TRY THE MIGHT OF VOLSTAGG?
ODDS BLOOD! SEEKEST THOU TO MOCK MY PROWESS??
I SEE THEE, AND FANDRAL-- AND VOLSTAGG AS WELL!
BUT WHAT OF NOBLE BALDER?
HE DOTH BATTLE LIKE A DEMON, BEYOND THE GOLDEN GATES!
SO DO YOU ALL!
SO TOO SHALL THOR!
THEY FALL BACK, MY PRINCE--BEFORE THE FURY OF THY HAMMER!
BUT WAIT! WHAT DO I HEAR??
THE BRAZEN BLARE OF TRUMPETS--
--FROM THE PALACE OF OUR LIEGE!
16


'TIS THE SHRILL AND FATEFUL CALL WHICH HERALDS AN END TO BATTLE!


THEN, AS THE FANFARE STOPS--A REGALLY-CLAD FIGURE APPEARS BEFORE THE MULTITUDES--
LET ALL BE SILENT!


'TIS LOKI-- IN THE GARB OF SOVEREIGN OF THE REALM!
TRAITOR-- PREPARE TO MEET THY FATE!
SO! WE FACE EACH OTHER ONCE AGAIN!

BUT THIS TIME THE POWER IS MINE!
GUARDS! THEY SHALL NOT PASS!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?!?!
THOU CANST NOT RULE-- WHILST ODIN LIVES!

NONE MAY SAY WHAT LOKI CAN DO! NONE MAY DARE TELL LOKI NAY!
FOR LOKI DOTH WEAR-- THE RING IMPERIAL!!
THUS, LOKI IS THE WORD-- AND THE LAW! AND ALL WHO LIVE--ARE LOKI'S SUBJECTS!

MONSTROUS VILLAIN!! LORD OF EVIL!! THOU HAST DEFILED THE CHAMBER OF ODIN!
THOU HAST STOLEN THE RING, WHILST HE DID LIE HELPLESS AND STILL!
SUCH MONUMENTAL INFAMY MUST NOT UNPUNISHED GO!
ASGARDIANS!! TO MY SIDE! WE FIGHT--TILL LOKI FALLS! SO SPEAKS THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THOUGH OUR HEARTS BE WITH THEE, NOBLE PRINCE--
'TIS LOKI WHO DOTH WEAR THE RING!
WE CANNOT TAKE ARMS AGAINST OUR LIEGE!
THEN--NONE WILL FOLLOW--WHERE THOR WOULDST LEAD??
THE GAME IS ENDED! THE PRIZE IS MINE!
NOW, THOU TOO SHALT PAY HOMAGE TO THY BROTHER LOKI!
BEFORE THE RING IMPERIAL--I COMMAND THEE--BOW THY HEAD!

YOU MUST OBEY! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
THE GODDESS SIF IS MY PRISONER! DEFY ME-- AND THOU SHALT SEE HER NEVERMORE!
BY ALL THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN AND HELL--IF THOU SHOULDST HARM MY LADY--
BE SILENT, PRINCE! 'TWILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT!
NOW BOW--OR STAND CONDEMNED AS TRAITOR TO THE REALM!
NOT ALL THE PASSING OF THE AGES SHALL ERASE THE MEMORY OF THIS BASE IGNOMINY!
AT LAST-- I'VE WON!
NOW BEGINS THE REIGN OF LOKI!
EVEN THE THUNDER GOD HATH YIELDED!
NOW LET EVIL FLOURISH O'ER THE WORLD!
NEXT:
INFERNO!

THOR
15¢
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MAY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
INFERNO
SEE: THE GOD OF THUNDER TRAPPED BY THE FLAMES OF SURTUR THE FIRE GIANT!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

EVIL LOKI HAS SEIZED THE POWER ROYAL IN IMPERIAL ASGARD, WHILE ALMIGHTY ODIN SLEEPS THE FATEFUL ODINSLEEP! EVEN MIGHTY THOR IS HONOR BOUND TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE PRINCE OF EVIL!

AND SO, THE STAGE IS SET, FOR THE DEADLY---

INFERNO!

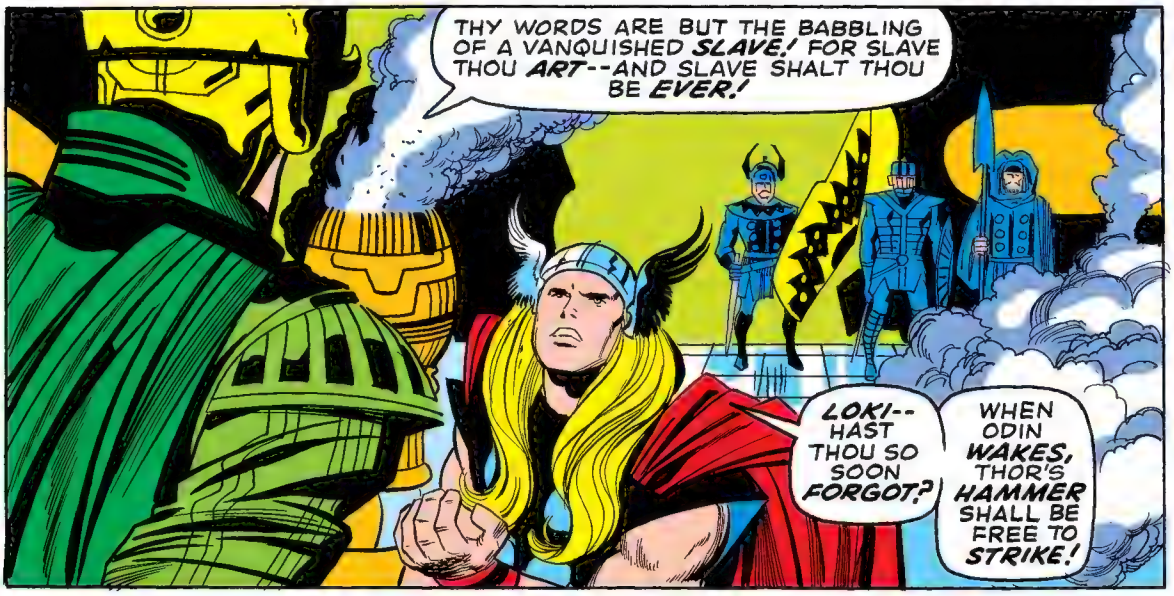
SO LONG AS THOU DOST WEAR THE MYSTIC ODINRING, I HAVE NO COURSE BUT TO SERVE THEE!

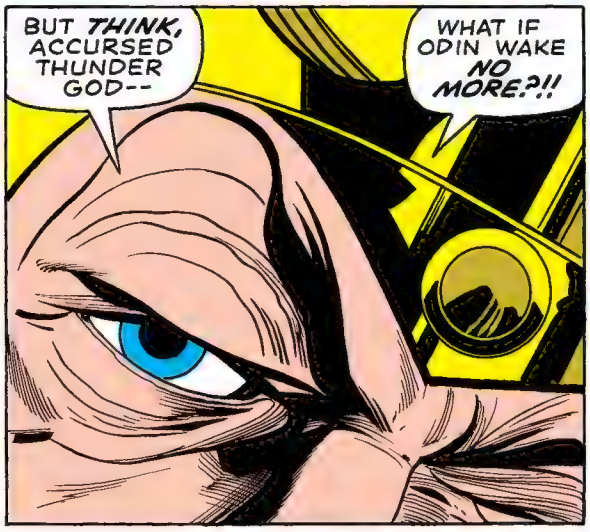
YET, I SAY THEE NOW, MOST SINISTER STEP-BROTHER--IN HEART--IN SOUL--IN THOUGHT AND SPIRIT--EVER SHALL I BE THY FOE ETERNAL!

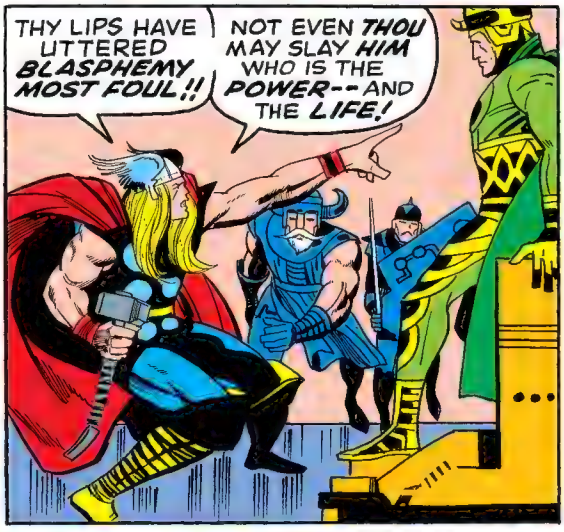
A MUNIFICENT MASTERWORK BY:
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

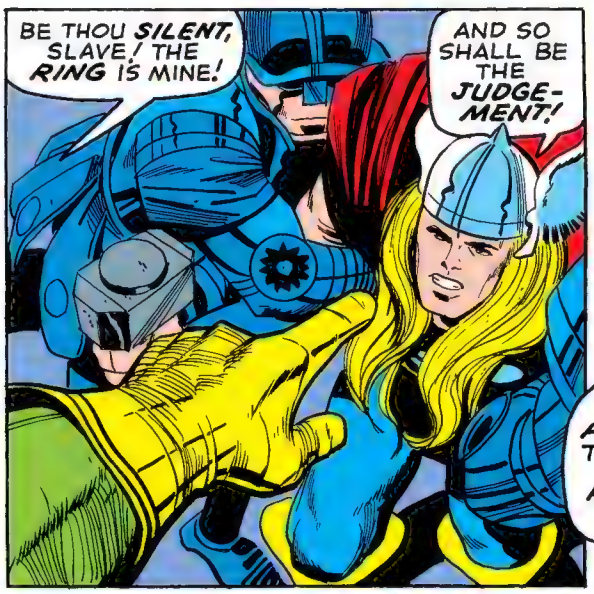
VINCE COLLETTA
INKER

ARTIE SIMEK
LETTERER

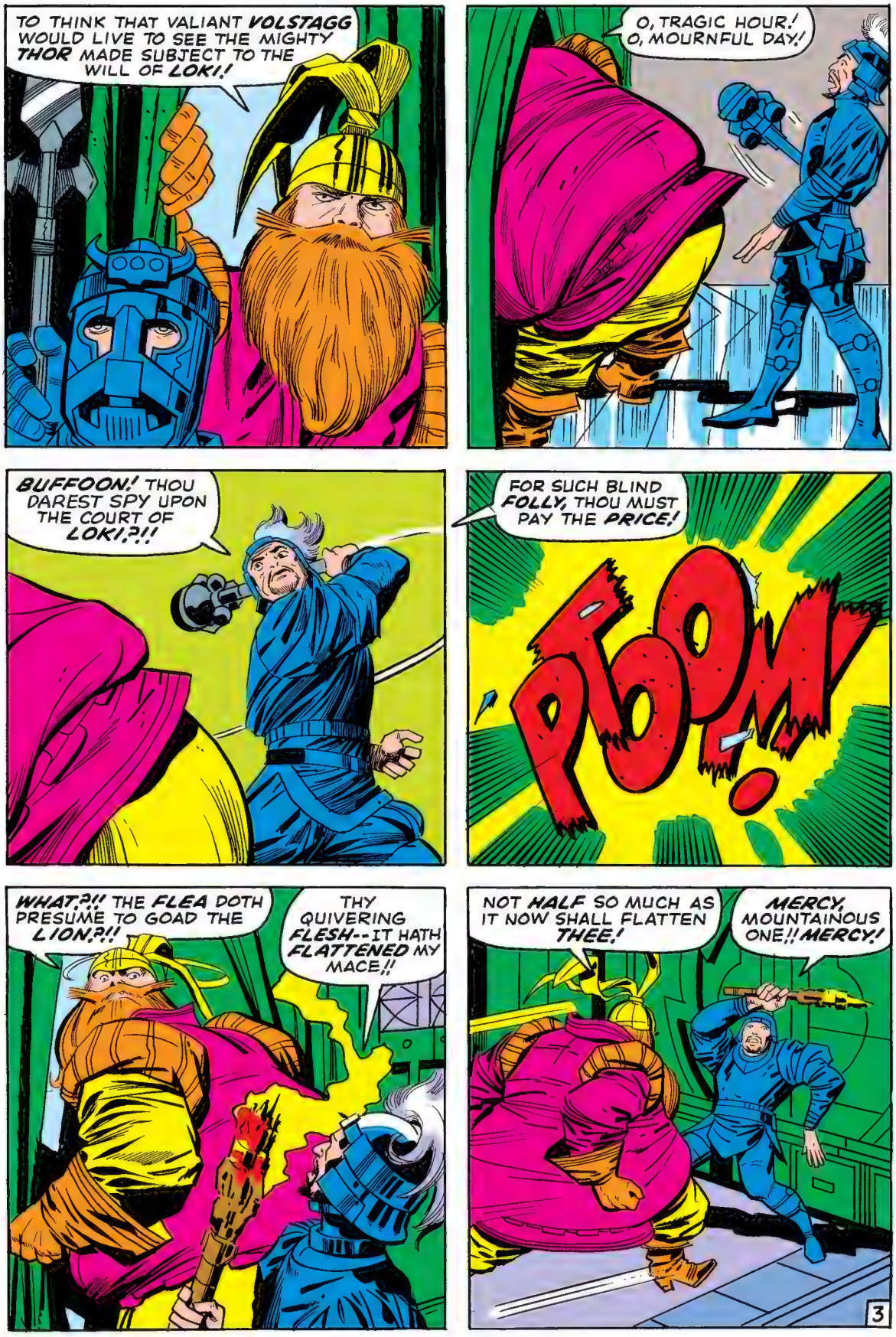

THY WORDS ARE BUT THE BABBLING OF A VANQUISHED SLAVE! FOR SLAVE THOU ART--AND SLAVE SHALT THOU BE EVER!
BAMMM
LOKI-- HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOT?
WHEN ODIN WAKES, THOR'S HAMMER SHALL BE FREE TO STRIKE!


BUT THINK, ACCURSED THUNDER GOD--
WHAT IF ODIN WAKE NO MORE?!!

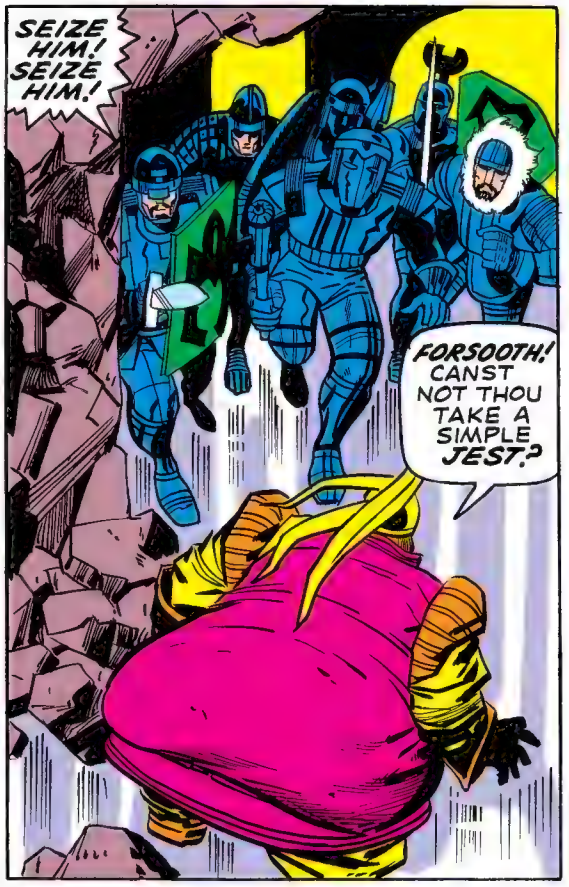

THY LIPS HAVE UTTERED BLASPHEMY MOST FOUL!!
NOT EVEN THOU MAY SLAY HIM WHO IS THE POWER--AND THE LIFE!

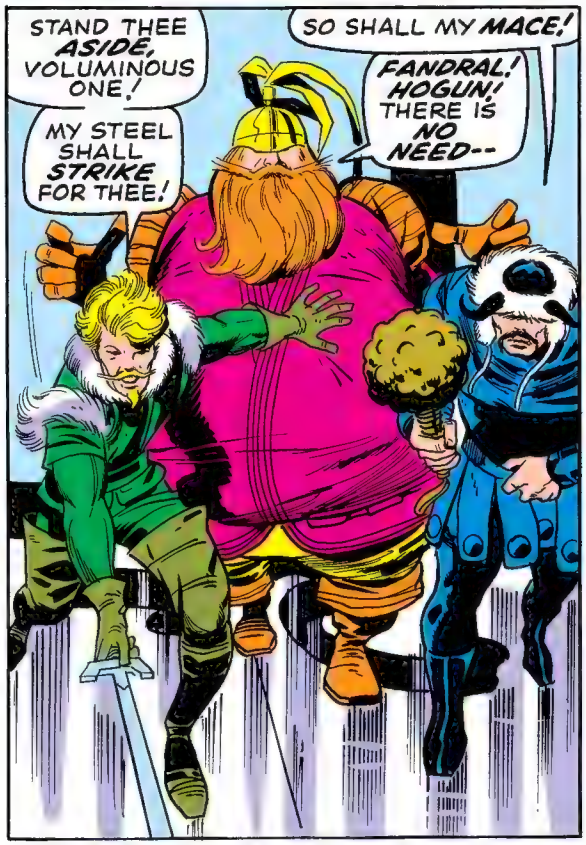

BE THOU SILENT, SLAVE! THE RING IS MINE!
AND SO SHALL BE THE JUDGE-MENT!

TO THE DUNGEONS WITH THEE! NEVERMORE SHALL THOR KNOW FREEDOM!
IF THOU PREVAIL-- THEN MAY THE HEAVENS FALL!
FOR LIFE WILL HAVE NO MEANING!
2


TO THINK THAT VALIANT VOLSTAGG WOULD LIVE TO SEE THE MIGHTY THOR MADE SUBJECT TO THE WILL OF LOKI!
O, TRAGIC HOUR! O, MOURNFUL DAY!
BUFFOON! THOU DAREST SPY UPON THE COURT OF LOKI,?!!
FOR SUCH BLIND FOLLY, THOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!
PTOOM!
WHAT,?!! THE FLEA DOTH PRESUME TO GOAD THE LION,?!!
THY QUIVERING FLESH--IT HATH FLATTENED MY MACE!!
NOT HALF SO MUCH AS IT NOW SHALL FLATTEN THEE!
MERCY, MOUNTAINOUS ONE!! MERCY!
3

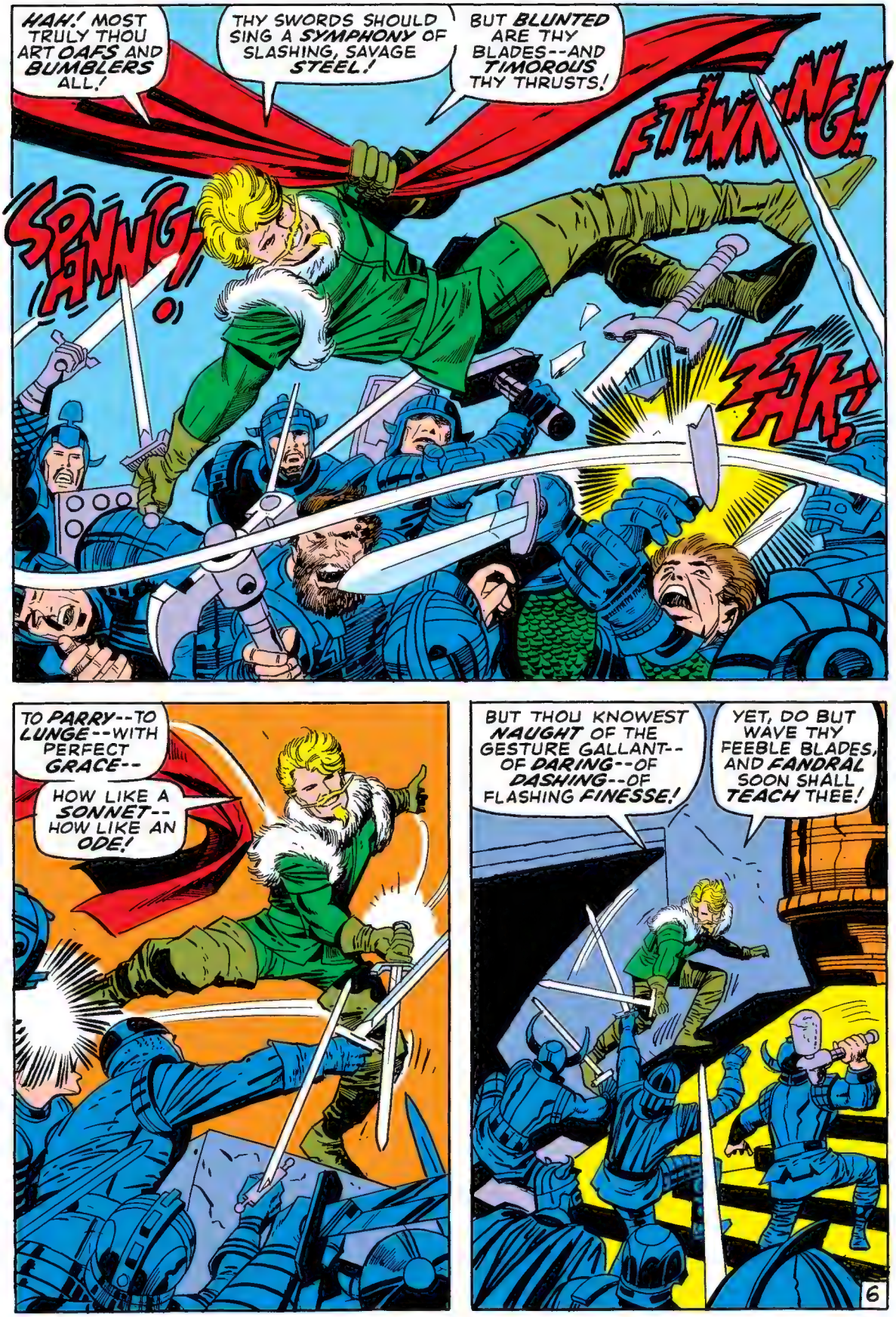
MERCY--FOR HIM WHO SERVES THE EVIL LOKI!?
FIE UPON THEE, BRAZEN KNAVE!
KRAK!


SEIZE HIM! SEIZE HIM!
FORSOOTH! CANST NOT THOU TAKE A SIMPLE JEST.?


STAND THEE ASIDE, VOLUMINOUS ONE.!
SO SHALL MY MACE!
FANDRAL! HOGUN! THERE IS NO NEED--
MY STEEL SHALL STRIKE FOR THEE!

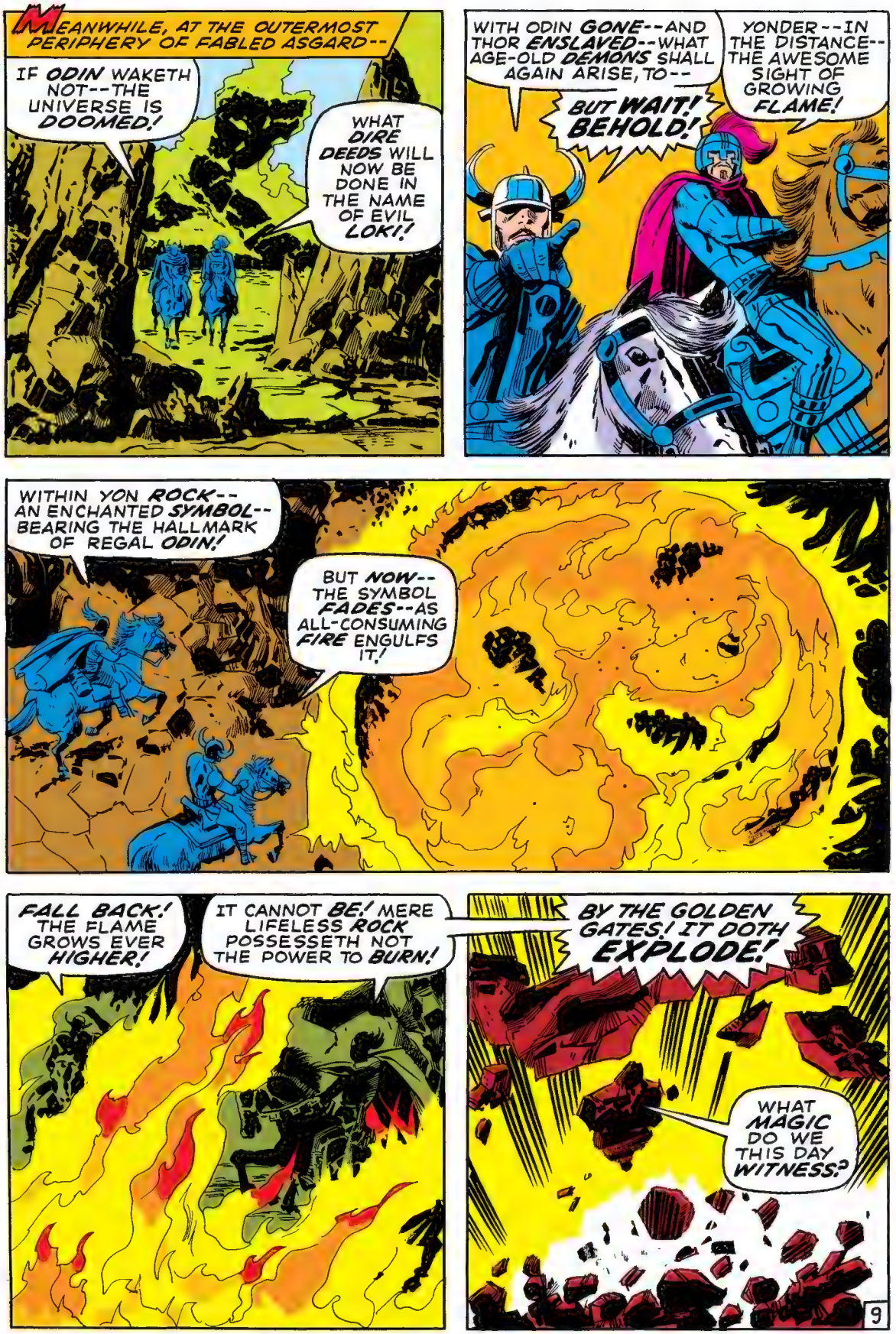
BUT, SINCE THOU ART HERE, VALOROUS VOLSTAGG SHALL TURN ABOUT AND GUARD THE REAR!
A TASK FOR WHICH HE BE MOST PERFECT SUITED!
AYE, SINCE ALL OUR FOES NOW STAND BEFORE US!
4

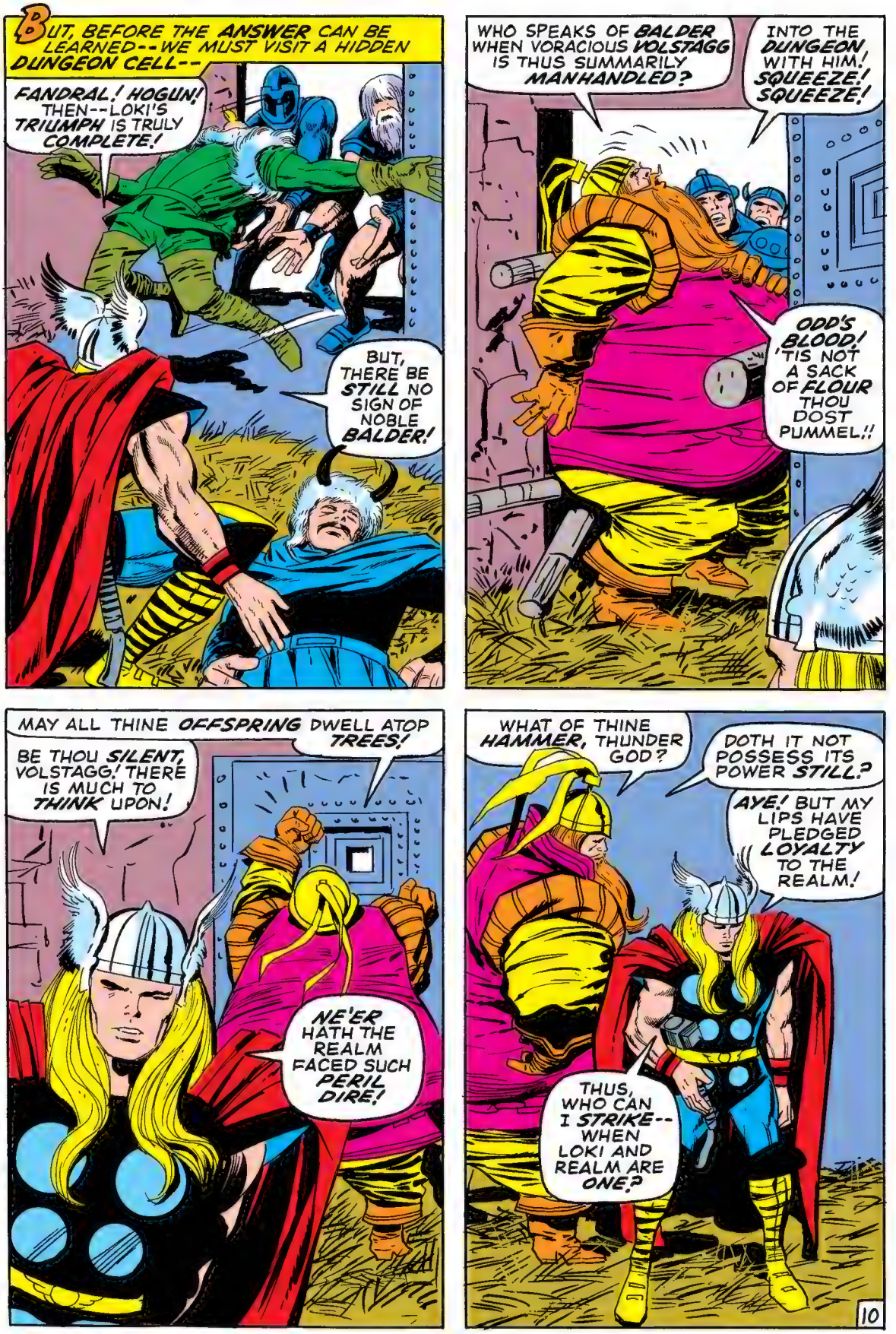
THOUGH OUR LIPS HAVE PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO THY MASTER LOKI--
THE PLEDGE DOTH NOT APPLY TO SUCH AS THEE!
THUS SHALT THOU FALL-- BEFORE THE FURY OF MY MACE!
WELL SPOKE, HEROIC HOGUN!
AND FANDRAL'S BLADE NOW ECHOES THEE!
FANDRAL-- TO MY SIDE! THEY SEEK NOW TO SURROUND THEE!
SURROUND THE FASTEST BLADE IN ALL THE REALM? 'TIS NOT WORTHY OF REPLY!
AND NOW BEHOLD-- 'TIS I WHO SHALL ATTACK!


HAH! MOST TRULY THOU ART OAFS AND BUMBLERS ALL!
THY SWORDS SHOULD SING A SYMPHONY OF SLASHING, SAVAGE STEEL!
BUT BLUNTED ARE THY BLADES--AND TIMOROUS THY THRUSTS!
SPANNG!
FTANNG!
FAK!
TO PARRY--TO LUNGE--WITH PERFECT GRACE--
HOW LIKE A SONNET--HOW LIKE AN ODE!
BUT THOU KNOWEST NAUGHT OF THE GESTURE GALLANT--OF DARING--OF DASHING--OF FLASHING FINESSE!
YET, DO BUT WAVE THY FEEBLE BLADES, AND FANDRAL SOON SHALL TEACH THEE!
6

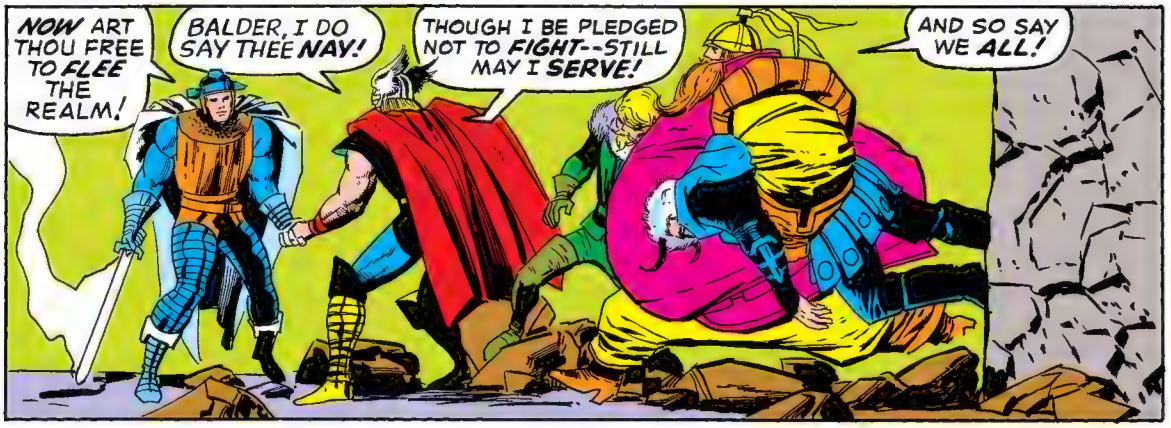
COME CLOSER, LADS--COME CLOSER STILL--
'TIS ONE LONE BLADE 'GAINST MANY!
BUT THE BLADE--AND THE SKILL--AND THE DARING TOO--BELONG TO DASHING FANDRAL!
BACK! BACK! HE TILTS THE EARTHEN VASE UPON US!!
BUH-ROOM
I BEG THEE ALL--DO NOT DESPAIR!
THY PLIGHT COULD BE FAR WORSE--
THY LESSON, ALAS, IS INCOMPLETE--
FOR, BALDER BE NOT HERE!
A MOST AMUSING PERFORMANCE, RECKLESS ONE!
BUT NOW MUST FALL THE CURTAIN!

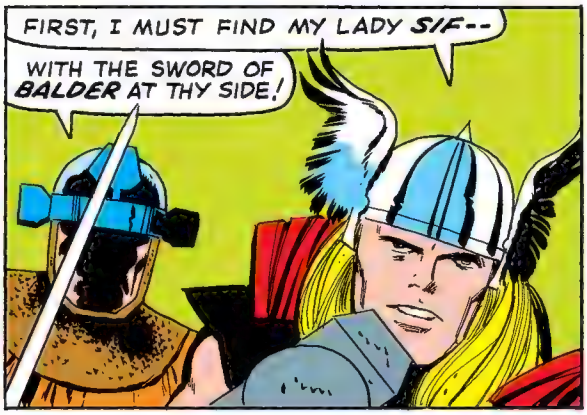
THE ODINRING! I--CANNOT DEFY IT!
NOW BEND THY KNEE TO LOKI!
NE'ER AGAIN SHALT THOU OPPOSE MY SERVITORS--FOR, BY THE POWER OF THIS RING I WEAR--
FANDRAL TOO IS LOKI'S VASSAL!
AWAY WITH HIM! BRING HIM TO THE OTHERS WHOM THY LIEGE HATH VANQUISHED!
THIS VAPOR HELMET HATH FINALLY SUBDUED THE SAVAGE HOGUN!
LET THEM JOIN THE CAPTIVE THOR!
8

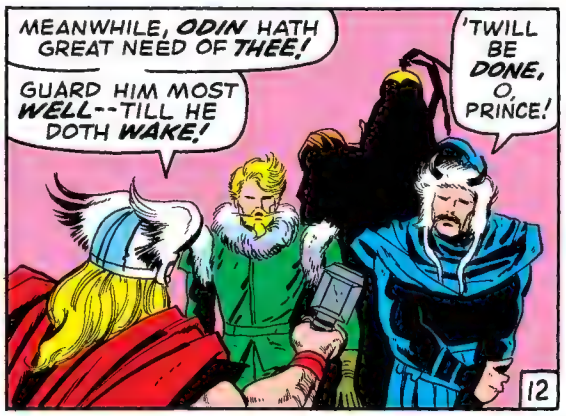

MEANWHILE, AT THE OUTERMOST PERIPHERY OF FABLED ASGARD--
IF ODIN WAKETH NOT--THE UNIVERSE IS DOOMED!
WHAT DIRE DEEDS WILL NOW BE DONE IN THE NAME OF EVIL LOKI!
WITH ODIN GONE--AND THOR ENSLAVED--WHAT AGE-OLD DEMONS SHALL AGAIN ARISE, TO--
BUT WAIT! BEHOLD!
YONDER--IN THE DISTANCE--THE AWESOME SIGHT OF GROWING FLAME!
WITHIN YON ROCK--AN ENCHANTED SYMBOL--BEARING THE HALLMARK OF REGAL ODIN!
BUT NOW--THE SYMBOL FADES--AS ALL-CONSUMING FIRE ENGULFS IT!
FALL BACK! THE FLAME GROWS EVER HIGHER!
IT CANNOT BE! MERE LIFELESS ROCK POSSESSETH NOT THE POWER TO BURN!
BY THE GOLDEN GATES! IT DOTH EXPLODE!
WHAT MAGIC DO WE THIS DAY WITNESS?
9

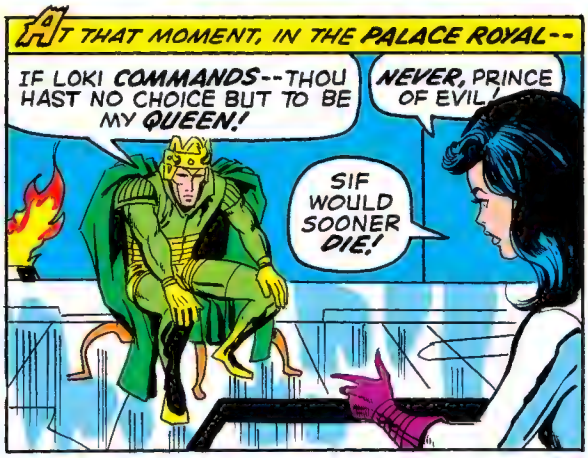

BUT, BEFORE THE ANSWER CAN BE LEARNED--WE MUST VISIT A HIDDEN DUNGEON CELL--
FANDRAL! HOGUN! THEN--LOKI'S TRIUMPH IS TRULY COMPLETE!
BUT, THERE BE STILL NO SIGN OF NOBLE BALDER!
WHO SPEAKS OF BALDER WHEN VORACIOUS VOLSTAGG IS THUS SUMMARILY MANHANDLED?
INTO THE DUNGEON WITH HIM! SQUEEZE! SQUEEZE!
ODD'S BLOOD! 'TIS NOT A SACK OF FLOUR THOU DOST PUMMEL!!
MAY ALL THINE OFFSPRING DWELL ATOP TREES!
BE THOU SILENT, VOLSTAGG! THERE IS MUCH TO THINK UPON!
NE'ER HATH THE REALM FACED SUCH PERIL DIRE!
WHAT OF THINE HAMMER, THUNDER GOD?
DOTH IT NOT POSSESS ITS POWER STILL?
AYE! BUT MY LIPS HAVE PLEDGED LOYALTY TO THE REALM!
THUS, WHO CAN I STRIKE--WHEN LOKI AND REALM ARE ONE?
10

LOSE NOT THY FAITH, NOBLE THOR! NO SUCH VOW HATH BALDER TAKEN!
THAT IS WHY I HAVE HID--WHERE THINE EVIL BROTHER MIGHT NOT FIND ME!
BALDER!
LOYAL ONE--TRULY THOU ART OUR ONLY HOPE!
AND SO LONG AS BREATH ENDURES--I SWEAR I SHALL NOT FAIL THEE!
THOUGH LOKI DOTH RULE--BALDER DOTH NOT OBEY!
THUS AM I AN OUTLAW HUNTED!
THUS SHALL BALDER FIGHT FOR THEE!
NOW STAND THEE BACK--AS BALDER STRIKES--IN THE NAME OF ODIN!
FOR 'TWAS HIM WHO ENCHANTED THE BLADE I HOLD!
AND FOR HIM ALONE DO I WIELD IT NOW!
BKOW!

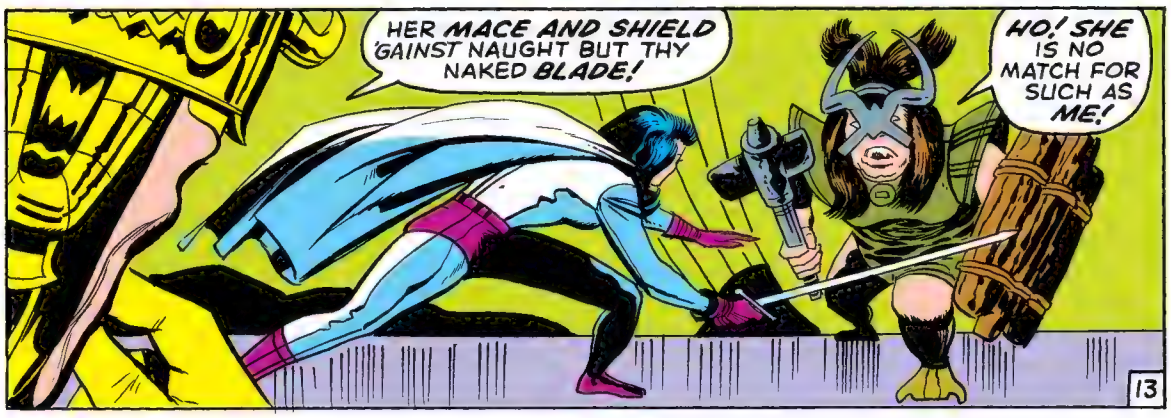

NOW ART THOU FREE TO FLEE THE REALM!
BALDER, I DO SAY THEE NAY!
THOUGH I BE PLEDGED NOT TO FIGHT--STILL MAY I SERVE!
AND SO SAY WE ALL!

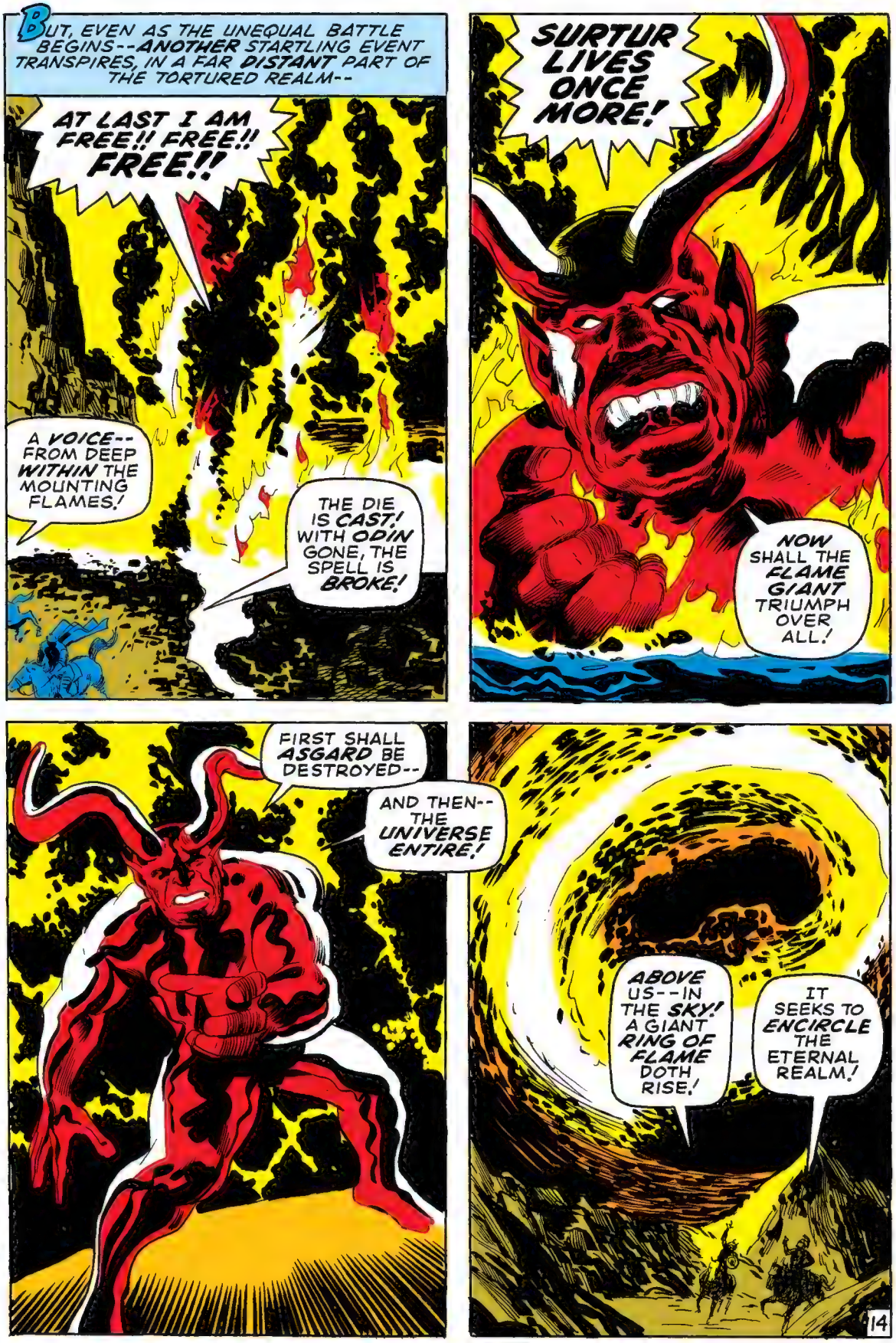

FIRST, I MUST FIND MY LADY SIF--
WITH THE SWORD OF BALDER AT THY SIDE!

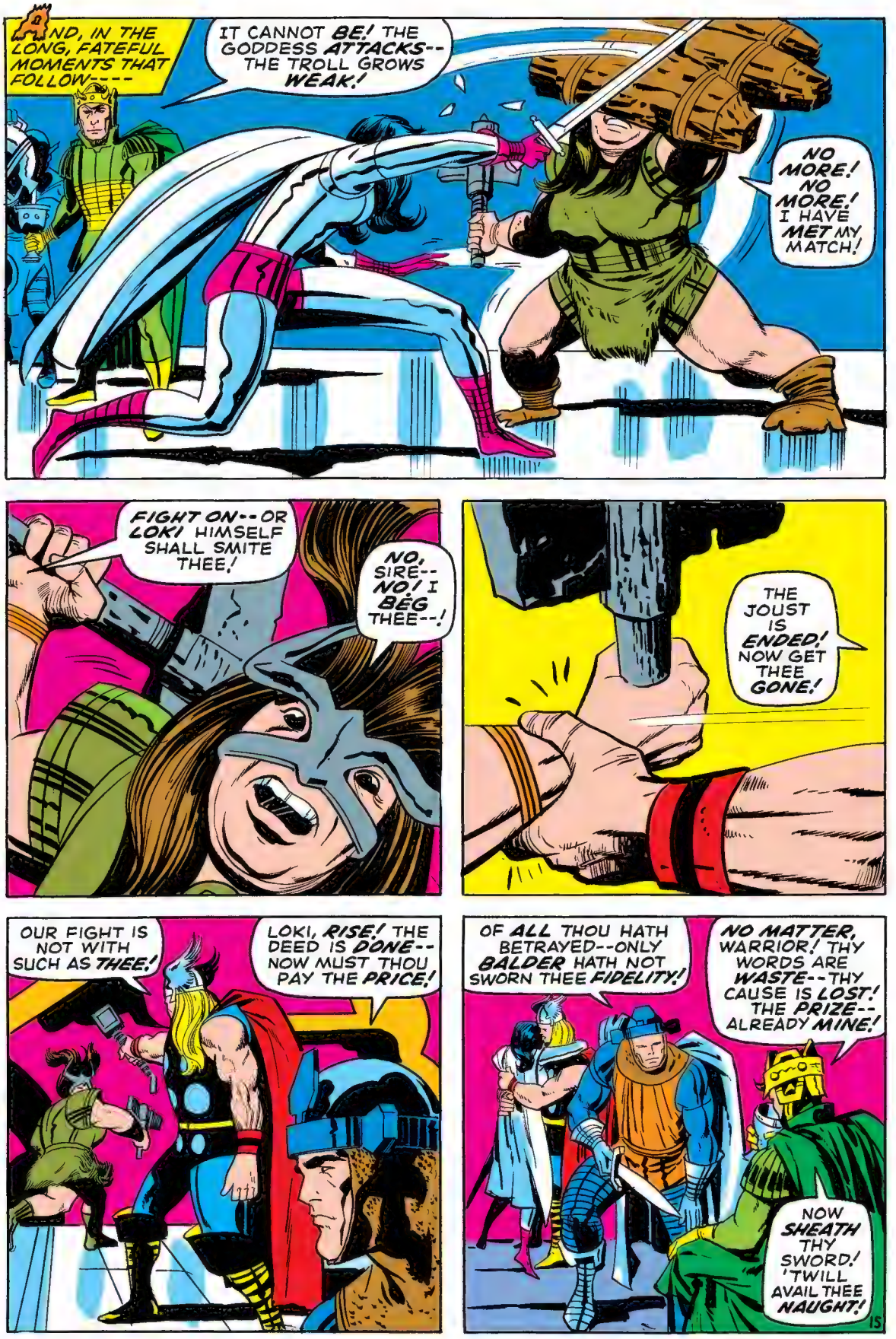

MEANWHILE, ODIN HATH GREAT NEED OF THEE!
GUARD HIM MOST WELL--TILL HE DOTH WAKE!
'TWILL BE DONE, O, PRINCE!
12


AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE PALACE ROYAL--
IF LOKI COMMANDS--THOU HAST NO CHOICE BUT TO BE MY QUEEN!
NEVER, PRINCE OF EVIL!
SIF WOULD SOONER DIE!

THEN LET ME TEST THEE! LET FEAR GIVE THE LIE TO THY WORDS SO RASH!
THOU SHALT FACE IN COMBAT A FEMALE TROLL! THEN SHALT THOU CHOOSE 'TWIXT LOKI-- OR DEATH!


HER MACE AND SHIELD 'GAINST NAUGHT BUT THY NAKED BLADE!
HO! SHE IS NO MATCH FOR SUCH AS ME!
13


BUT, EVEN AS THE UNEQUAL BATTLE BEGINS--ANOTHER STARTLING EVENT TRANSPIRES, IN A FAR DISTANT PART OF THE TORTURED REALM--
AT LAST I AM FREE!! FREE!! FREE!!
A VOICE-- FROM DEEP WITHIN THE MOUNTING FLAMES!
THE DIE IS CAST! WITH ODIN GONE, THE SPELL IS BROKE!
SURTUR LIVES ONCE MORE!
NOW SHALL THE FLAME GIANT TRIUMPH OVER ALL!
FIRST SHALL ASGARD BE DESTROYED--
AND THEN-- THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!
ABOVE US--IN THE SKY! A GIANT RING OF FLAME DOTH RISE!
IT SEEKS TO ENCIRCLE THE ETERNAL REALM!
14


AND, IN THE LONG, FATEFUL MOMENTS THAT FOLLOW----
IT CANNOT BE! THE GODDESS ATTACKS-- THE TROLL GROWS WEAK!
NO MORE! NO MORE! I HAVE MET MY MATCH!
FIGHT ON--OR LOKI HIMSELF SHALL SMITE THEE!
NO, SIRE-- NO! I BEG THEE--!
THE JOUST IS ENDED! NOW GET THEE GONE!
OUR FIGHT IS NOT WITH SUCH AS THEE!
LOKI, RISE! THE DEED IS DONE-- NOW MUST THOU PAY THE PRICE!
OF ALL THOU HATH BETRAYED--ONLY BALDER HATH NOT SWORN THEE FIDELITY!
NO MATTER, WARRIOR! THY WORDS ARE WASTE--THY CAUSE IS LOST! THE PRIZE-- ALREADY MINE!
NOW SHEATH THY SWORD! 'TWILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT!
15

BRING FORTH THE FABLED ENCHANTI-SCREEN!
I WOULD HAVE THEE SEE WHY THOU ART EVER DOOMED TO FAILURE!
SINCE THOU CLAIMEST TO SERVE THE SLEEPING ODIN--
LET ODIN BE REVEALED!
STILL DOTH HE SLUMBER-- BUT, NO LONGER IN THE CHAMBER ROYAL!
MY FATHER!! WHAT HAST THOU DONE WITH HIM?
HE DOTH REPOSE WITHIN A CAPSULE--WHICH RESTS IN THE SEA OF ETERNAL NIGHT!
AY! THOUGH STILL HE LIVES--WITHIN YON PLACE THERE IS NO AWAKENING!
THUS SHALL LOKI RULE--TILL TIME ITSELF IS BUT A FADED MEMORY!
YOU--DARED DO THIS--TO HIM WHO IS THE SOVEREIGN-- TO HIM WHO IS-- THE STRENGTH??!
16

I DARE!! I WOULD DARE ANYTHING-- FOR SUCH A PRIZE!
KNOW YOU ALL--WHILST ODIN SLEEPS--THE CUNNING LOKI, PRINCE OF EVIL, DOTH RULE THE BOUNDLESS UNIVERSE!!
UNSPEAKABLE VILLAIN!! NOT E'EN THY RING SHALL STOP ME NOW!
SLAY ME IF THOU WILT-- BUT I SHALL DIE--FOR ASGARD!!
SO SAY WE ALL!
BUT, BEFORE THE TAKING OF ANOTHER BREATH--THE MAKING OF ANOTHER MOVE-- A GIGANTIC RING OF SPINNING FLAME DESCENDS UPON THE REALM BELOW--
NOW LET ASGARD FEEL THE MATCHLESS MIGHT OF-- SURTUR!
NOW LET THE HEAVENS TREMBLE --NOW LET THE KINGDOM CRUMBLE!!

SURTUR LIVES!! HE HATH BROKEN FREE OF ODIN'S SPELL!
NOW THERE BE NONE TO SAVE US!
FLEE! FLEE! WE MUST FLEE BEFORE THE ENDLESS FLAMES!
BUT, FLIGHT ITSELF IS FUTILE--FOR THE FLAMES ARE EVERYWHERE!
THE AIR GROWS HOTTER! THE BUILDINGS THEMSELVES BEGIN TO MELT!
HOLD!! WHAT SUDDEN PANIC NOW GRIPS THE REALM??
THE TORTURED CRIES-- THE MOUNTING HEAT-- CAN BUT MEAN ONE THING--
SURTUR LIVES!!
18

ONLY THE OMNIPOTENT SPELL OF ODIN COULD HOLD HIM IN ETERNAL BONDAGE!
BUT NOW--SEE WHAT LOKI HATH UNLEASHED UPON US!
HIS POWER DOTH REACH THE CASTLE ITSELF! THUS, NONE OF US ARE SAFE!
HE MUST BE STOPPED! HE MUST BE CRUSHED!
THEN DO SO, PRINCE OF EVIL!
THE SCEPTER NOW IS THINE!
IN THE STREETS--IN THE SKY--HIS FLAMES ARE EVERYWHERE!
IS THIS THEN--HOW THE WORLD WILL END??
NO! NO! LOKI SAYS IT CANNOT BE!
THE ODINRING IS MINE! THE CROWN IS MINE! THE WORLD IS MINE! NONE SHALL STRIP THEM FROM ME!
WITLESS COWARD! THOU CANST NOT HOLD WHAT HATH NE'ER BEEN RIGHTLY THINE!
FIND SURTUR! STOP HIM! YOU MUST--I COMMAND THEE!
'TIS TOO LATE FOR THY COMMANDS!
19

ODIN IS SURTUR'S ENEMY SWORN! WITH ODIN GONE--'TIS LOKI SURTUR SHALL ATTACK IN HIS STEAD!
DOST THOU FEAR ONLY FOR THYSELF--WITH ALL THE REALM IN JEOPARDY?!?
WHAT CARES LOKI FOR THE REALM? LOKI IS KING! LOKI MUST NOT PERISH!
AYE! DEATH IS TOO GOOD FOR THE LIKES OF SUCH AS THEE!
SINCE THE EVIL ONE HATH FLED, THE THUNDER GOD IS FREE TO FIGHT!
THUS, THOR SHALL LEAD THE ATTACK 'GAINST DEADLY SURTUR!
AND WE AT THY SIDE SHALL FIGHT, MY LORD!
NAY! THERE BE OTHER TASKS FOR THEE!
I SEND THEE BOTH--YE WHO BE CLOSEST TO THE HEART OF THOR--TO WAKE THE SLEEPING ODIN!
WE DARE NOT FAIL--FOR IF WE DO--THE WORLD WE KNOW SHALL ENDURE NO MORE!
THOUGH NOW WE PART--THE HEART OF SIF IS EVER WITH THEE!
WARRIORS, HO! I CALL THEE TO MY SIDE! THE TIME IS COME TO STAND --OR DIE--
-FOR ASGAAAARD!
NEXT THE FLAMES AND THE FINISH!

THOR
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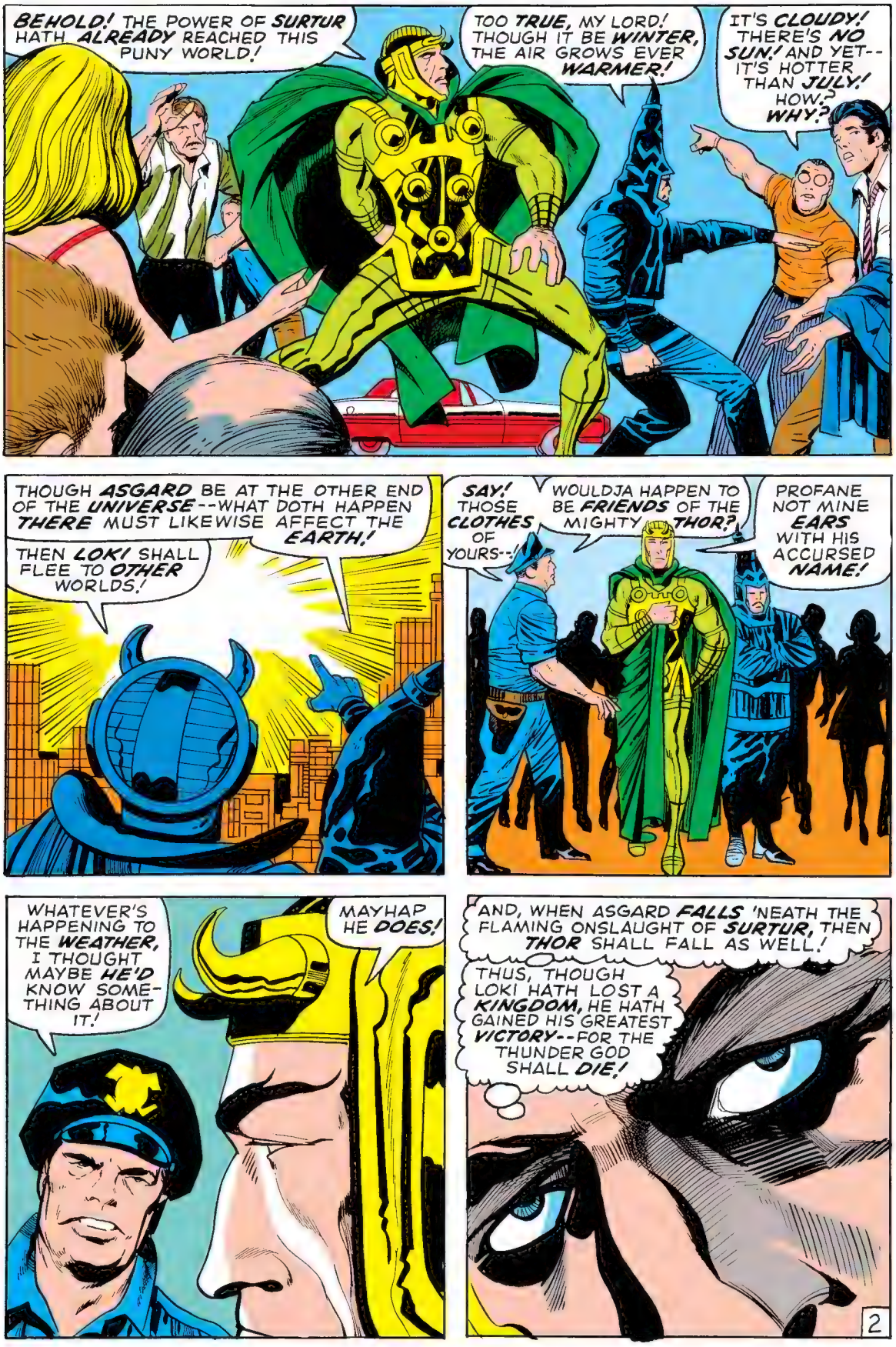
177
JUNE
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FOR ASGARD!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
GOD VS. GOD IN THE GREATEST BATTLE OF ALL TIME!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

TO END IN FLAMES!

WE HAVE SAFELY REACHED THE PLANET EARTH!
THUS, THOUGH ASGARD MAY FALL, LOKI SHALL BE SPARED!
BUT, THINK YOU, PRINCE OF EVIL--
--IF SURTUR, THE GIANT FIRE DEMON, DESTROYS THE ETERNAL REALM--
--HOW LONG CAN EARTH SURVIVE?
THRU TRICKERY AND GUILE, EVIL LOKI HAS STOLEN THE THRONE OF ASGARD--SENDING THE SLEEPING ODIN TO THE SEA OF ETERNAL NIGHT! BUT, WITH THE INVASION OF SURTUR, THE FIRE GOD, LOKI FLEES THE REALM, LEAVING ALL OF ASGARD TO ITS FRIGHTFUL FATE--!
GRANDEUR UNSURPASSED, BY
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: A. SIMEK

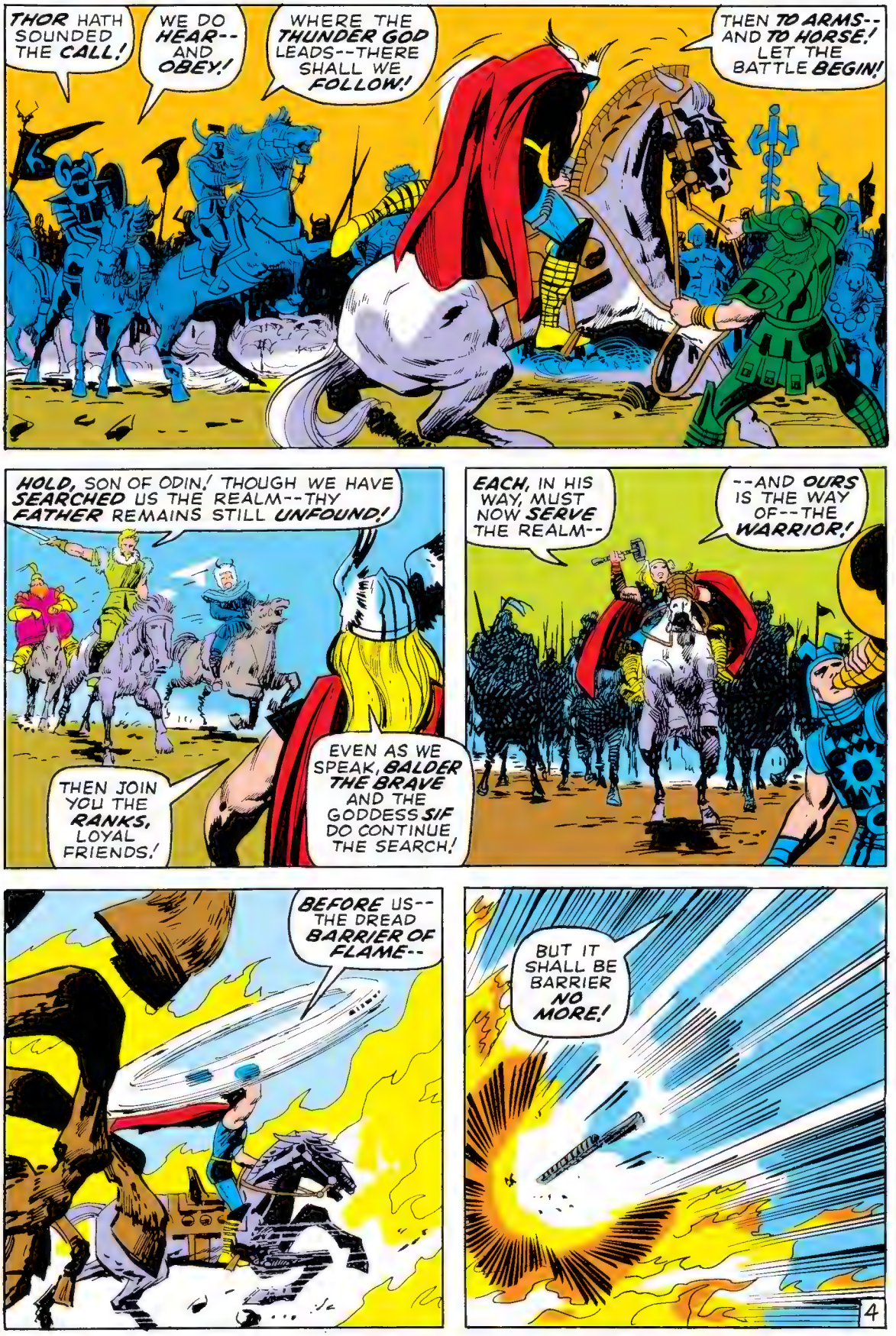

BEHOLD! THE POWER OF SURTUR HATH ALREADY REACHED THIS PUNY WORLD!
TOO TRUE, MY LORD! THOUGH IT BE WINTER, THE AIR GROWS EVER WARMER!
IT'S CLOUDY! THERE'S NO SUN! AND YET-- IT'S HOTTER THAN JULY! HOW? WHY?
THOUGH ASGARD BE AT THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE--WHAT DOTH HAPPEN THERE MUST LIKEWISE AFFECT THE EARTH!
THEN LOKI SHALL FLEE TO OTHER WORLDS!
SAY! THOSE CLOTHES OF YOURS--!
WOULDJA HAPPEN TO BE FRIENDS OF THE MIGHTY THOR?
PROFANE NOT MINE EARS WITH HIS ACCURSED NAME!
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING TO THE WEATHER, I THOUGHT MAYBE HE'D KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
MAYHAP HE DOES!
AND, WHEN ASGARD FALLS 'NEATH THE FLAMING ONSLAUGHT OF SURTUR, THEN THOR SHALL FALL AS WELL!
THUS, THOUGH LOKI HATH LOST A KINGDOM, HE HATH GAINED HIS GREATEST VICTORY--FOR THE THUNDER GOD SHALL DIE!
2

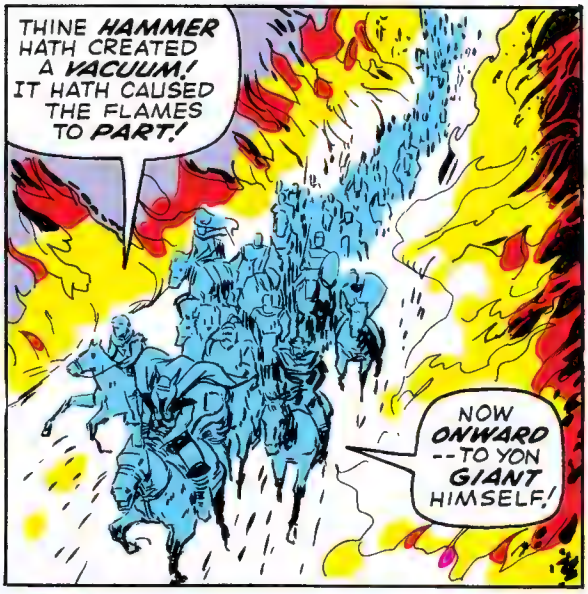
AND, EVEN AS THE GLOATING GOD OF EVIL MUSES--A MONSTROUS RING OF FLAME ENGULFS THE GOLDEN REALM--
SURTUR DOTH ATTACK--AND THERE BE NONE TO STOP HIM!

LORDLY ODIN HATH STRANGELY VANISHED--
--AND LOKI, AS WELL --AND WITH HIM, THE ROYAL RING IMPERIAL!
SO THERE BE NONE TO LEAD US NOW!
NO! ONE YET REMAINS--THE NOBLEST ONE OF ALL--

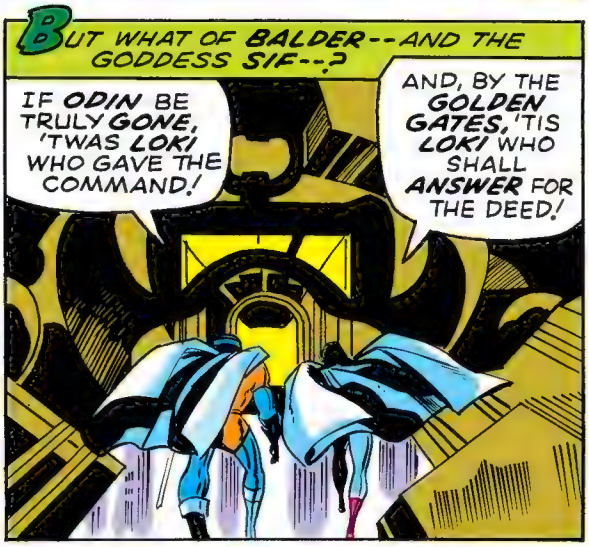
BEHOLD--THE MIGHTY THOR!
I SAY TO THEE--STAND FAST!!

WHATE'ER THE DANGER--WHATE'ER THE ODDS--LET NONE FORGET--WE BE ASGARDIANS ALL!
WE FIGHT FOR HOME--FOR THE REALM ETERNAL! IN THE FACE OF DEATH--LET NOT A MAN SURRENDER!
3


THOR HATH SOUNDED THE CALL!
WE DO HEAR-- AND OBEY!
WHERE THE THUNDER GOD LEADS--THERE SHALL WE FOLLOW!
THEN TO ARMS-- AND TO HORSE! LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!
HOLD, SON OF ODIN! THOUGH WE HAVE SEARCHED US THE REALM--THY FATHER REMAINS STILL UNFOUND!
THEN JOIN YOU THE RANKS, LOYAL FRIENDS!
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, BALDER THE BRAVE AND THE GODDESS SIF DO CONTINUE THE SEARCH!
EACH, IN HIS WAY, MUST NOW SERVE THE REALM--
--AND OURS IS THE WAY OF--THE WARRIOR!
BEFORE US-- THE DREAD BARRIER OF FLAME--
BUT IT SHALL BE BARRIER NO MORE!

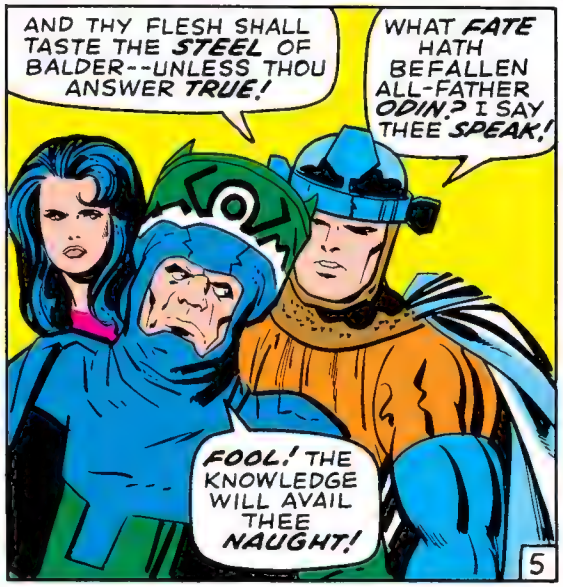

THINE HAMMER HATH CREATED A VACUUM! IT HATH CAUSED THE FLAMES TO PART!
NOW ONWARD --TO YON GIANT HIMSELF!

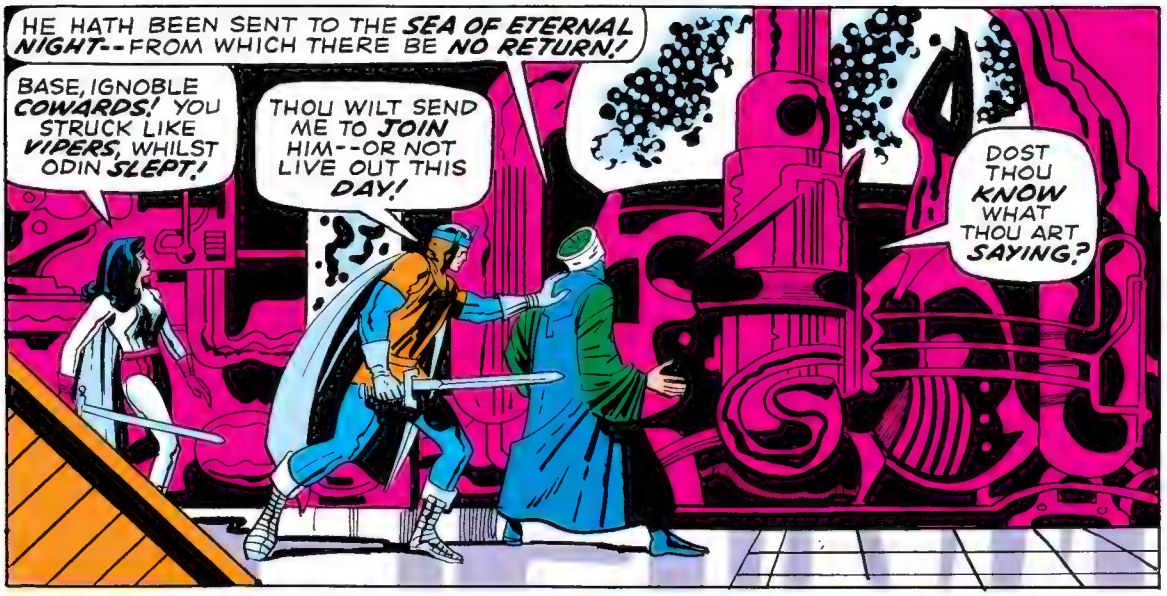
THERE DOTH HE STAND--LOOMING AS HIGH AS THE TALLEST PEAK!
PUNY ASGARDIANS! NONE BUT VANISHED ODIN MAY RIVAL THE POWER OF SURTUR!
HE DOTH SEE US! THE MOMENT IS COME!

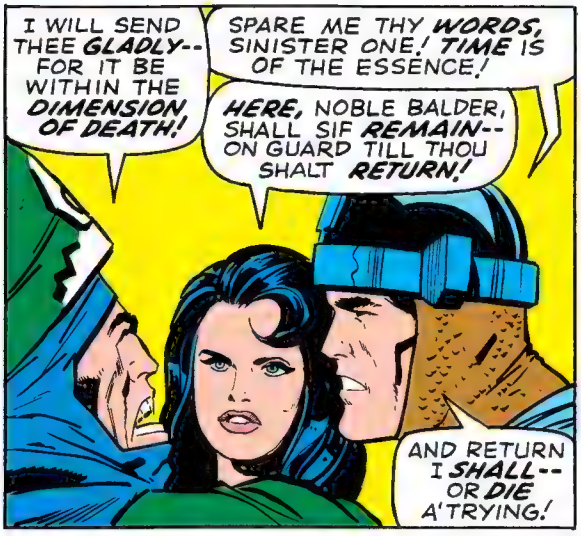

BUT WHAT OF BALDER--AND THE GODDESS SIF--?
IF ODIN BE TRULY GONE, 'TWAS LOKI WHO GAVE THE COMMAND!
AND, BY THE GOLDEN GATES, 'TIS LOKI WHO SHALL ANSWER FOR THE DEED!

BUT, IF THE EVIL ONE HATH FLED, WHY COME WE TO HIS CASTLE?
THE WIZARD IGRON DOTH REMAIN--AND HE IS LOKI'S FIENDISH ALLY!

IGRON! STAND THEE FAST!
MINE EARS PERCEIVE THE VOICE OF BALDER!


AND THY FLESH SHALL TASTE THE STEEL OF BALDER--UNLESS THOU ANSWER TRUE!
WHAT FATE HATH BEFALLEN ALL-FATHER ODIN? I SAY THEE SPEAK!
FOOL! THE KNOWLEDGE WILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT!

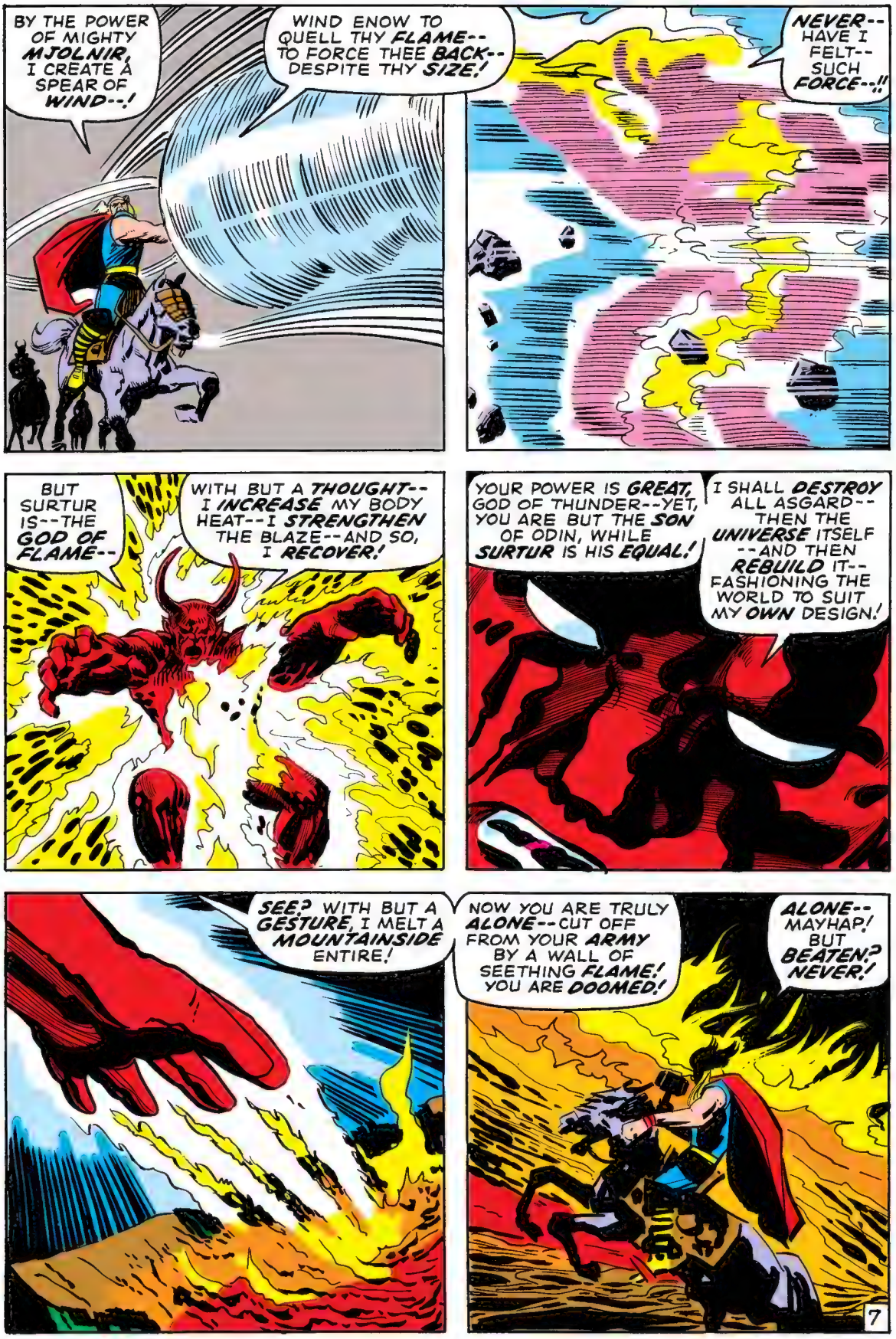

HE HATH BEEN SENT TO THE SEA OF ETERNAL NIGHT--FROM WHICH THERE BE NO RETURN!
BASE, IGNOBLE COWARDS! YOU STRUCK LIKE VIPERS, WHILST ODIN SLEPT!
THOU WILT SEND ME TO JOIN HIM--OR NOT LIVE OUT THIS DAY!
DOST THOU KNOW WHAT THOU ART SAYING?


I WILL SEND THEE GLADLY--FOR IT BE WITHIN THE DIMENSION OF DEATH!
SPARE ME THY WORDS, SINISTER ONE! TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
HERE, NOBLE BALDER, SHALL SIF REMAIN--ON GUARD TILL THOU SHALT RETURN!
AND RETURN I SHALL--OR DIE A'TRYING!

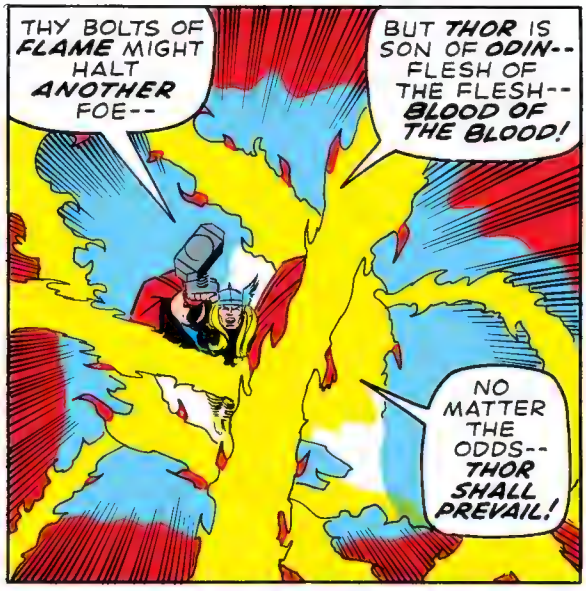
MEANWHILE, LED BY THE GOD OF THUNDER, THE LEGIONS OF ASGARD ATTACK--
LET NOT HIS SIZE--NOR HIS DEADLY POWER FILL THEE WITH FEAR!
WE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT! IN THE NAME OF LORD ODIN --WE STRIKE!

STRIKE.? YOU KNOW NOT THE MEANING OF THE WORD! BUT SURTUR WILL TEACH YOU!
BEHIND ME, ALL! HE DOTH UNLEASH A FLAME ATTACK!

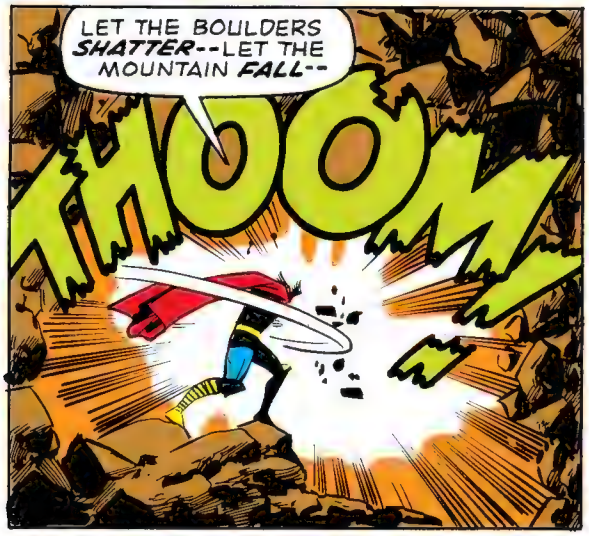
I NEED NO ARMY FOR THE LIKES OF THEE!
THOR SHALL STAND ALONE!
AND SO SHALL YOU FALL!


BY THE POWER OF MIGHTY MJOLNIR, I CREATE A SPEAR OF WIND--!
WIND ENOW TO QUELL THY FLAME-- TO FORCE THEE BACK-- DESPITE THY SIZE!
NEVER-- HAVE I FELT-- SUCH FORCE--!!
BUT SURTUR IS--THE GOD OF FLAME--
WITH BUT A THOUGHT-- I INCREASE MY BODY HEAT--I STRENGTHEN THE BLAZE--AND SO, I RECOVER!
YOUR POWER IS GREAT, GOD OF THUNDER--YET, YOU ARE BUT THE SON OF ODIN, WHILE SURTUR IS HIS EQUAL!
I SHALL DESTROY ALL ASGARD-- THEN THE UNIVERSE ITSELF --AND THEN REBUILD IT-- FASHIONING THE WORLD TO SUIT MY OWN DESIGN!
SEE? WITH BUT A GESTURE, I MELT A MOUNTAINSIDE ENTIRE!
NOW YOU ARE TRULY ALONE--CUT OFF FROM YOUR ARMY BY A WALL OF SEETHING FLAME! YOU ARE DOOMED!
ALONE-- MAYHAP! BUT BEATEN? NEVER!

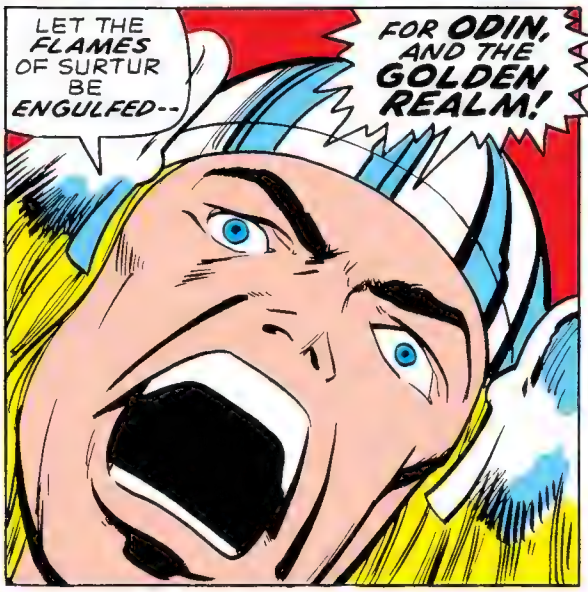
TAKE TO THY HEELS, LOYAL STEED!
THY MASTER HATH NO FURTHER NEED OF THEE!
THWAK!
THE SEA OF MOLTEN LAVA GROWS EVER HIGHER--
AND NOW, NO FURTHER CAN I CLIMB!
BUT STILL HAVE I MY STALWART HAMMER--!
--AND STILL SHALL THOR FIGHT ON!
IT MATTERS NOT WHERE YOU MAY FLY--
THERE IS NO PLACE I CANNOT REACH YOU!
8


THY BOLTS OF FLAME MIGHT HALT ANOTHER FOE--
BUT THOR IS SON OF ODIN--FLESH OF THE FLESH--BLOOD OF THE BLOOD!
NO MATTER THE ODDS--THOR SHALL PREVAIL!

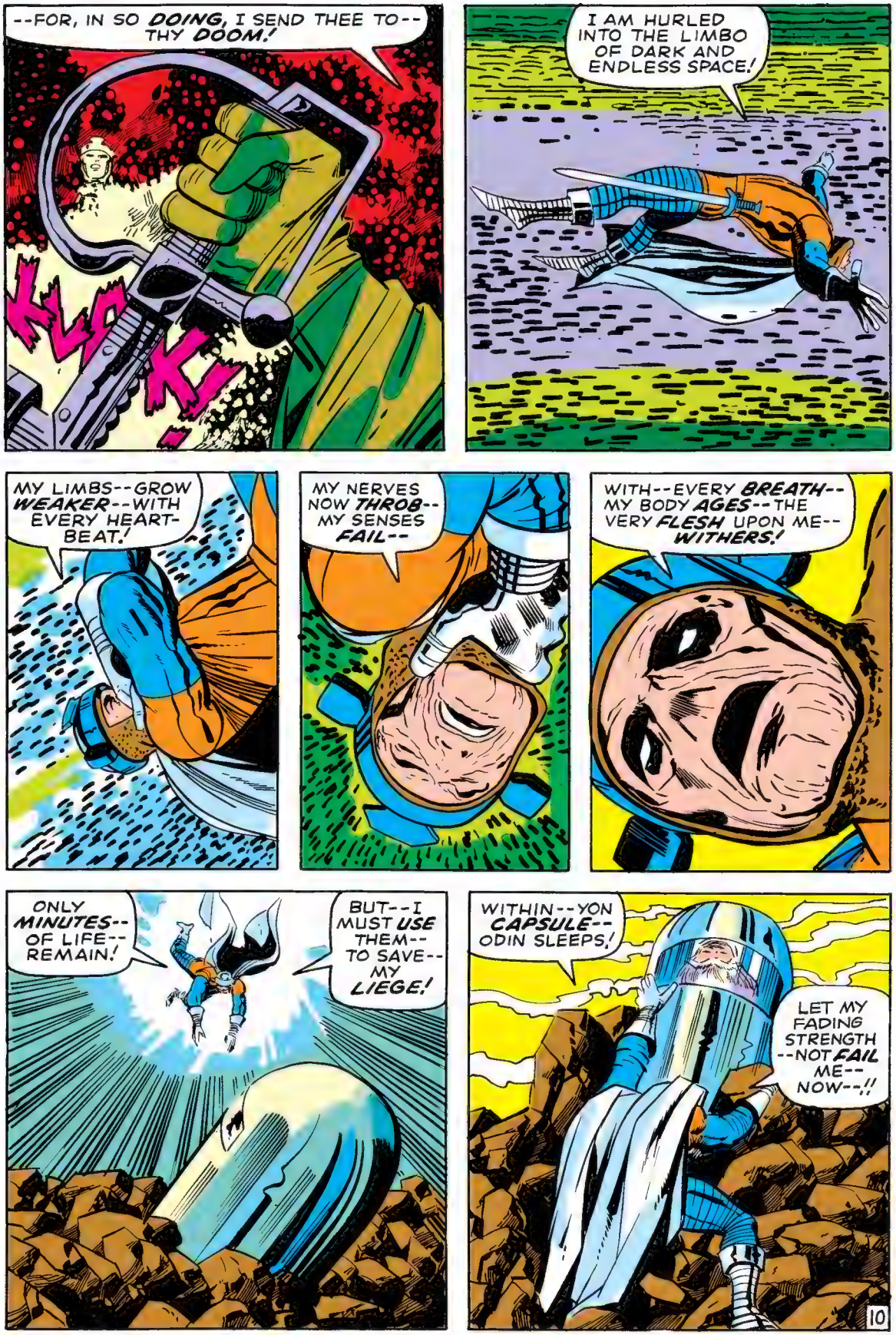
BEYOND THESE CLIFFS--THE SURGING SEA--HELD BACK, AS BY A DAM!
LET MIGHTY MJOLNIR STRIKE ONE BLOW--


LET THE BOULDERS SHATTER--LET THE MOUNTAIN FALL--
THOOM

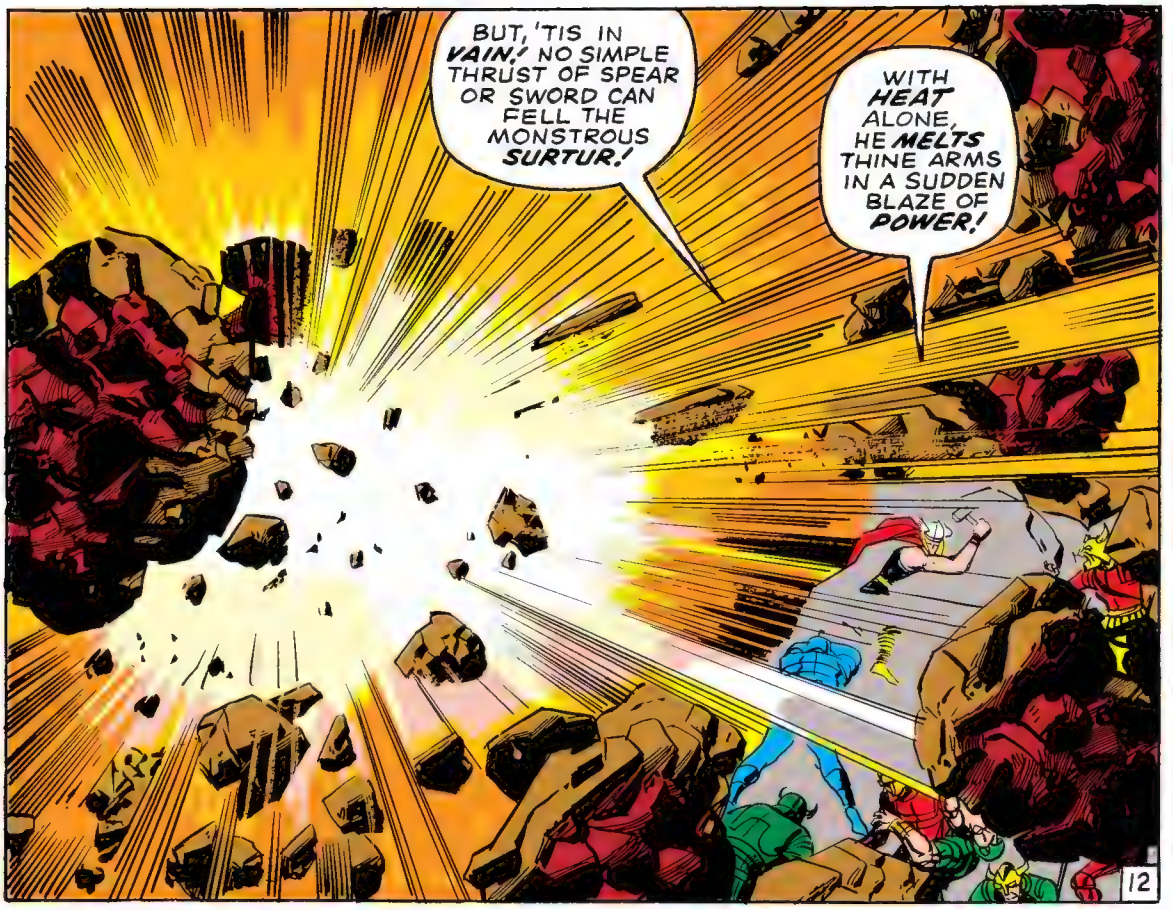
LET THE SEA BURST FORTH--IN ALL ITS FURY!


LET THE FLAMES OF SURTUR BE ENGULFED--
FOR ODIN, AND THE GOLDEN REALM!

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
IGRON, SEND ME FORTH! I COMMAND THEE!
NO NEED TO COMMAND, FOOLHARDY ONE--
I DO SO GLADLY!


--FOR, IN SO DOING, I SEND THEE TO-- THY DOOM!
KLG K!
I AM HURLED INTO THE LIMBO OF DARK AND ENDLESS SPACE!
MY LIMBS--GROW WEAKER--WITH EVERY HEART-BEAT!
MY NERVES NOW THROB-- MY SENSES FAIL--
WITH--EVERY BREATH-- MY BODY AGES--THE VERY FLESH UPON ME-- WITHERS!
ONLY MINUTES-- OF LIFE-- REMAIN!
BUT--I MUST USE THEM-- TO SAVE-- MY LIEGE!
WITHIN--YON CAPSULE-- ODIN SLEEPS!
LET MY FADING STRENGTH --NOT FAIL ME-- NOW--!!
10

A LIVING HAND DOTH PASS MY FACE!
MINE ODINSLEEP HATH ENDED!
WHILE, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY--
THE RUSHING SEA HATH FLOODED FLAMING SURTUR--
BUT NOW-- THE VERY WATERS START TO STEAM AND BUMBLE!
NEITHER WIND NOR WATER CAN QUENCH MY FLAME!
NOW TASTE YOUR FAILURE, GOD OF THUNDER!
HE DOTH DRAW NEAR-- PARTING THE SEA WITH BURSTS OF FIRE!
BUT HOLD! WHAT NEW AND WELCOME SOUNDS NOW STRIKE MINE EARS?
FOR ASGARD!
WARRIORS HAVE REACHED THE SITE! THEY DO ATTACK ONCE MORE!

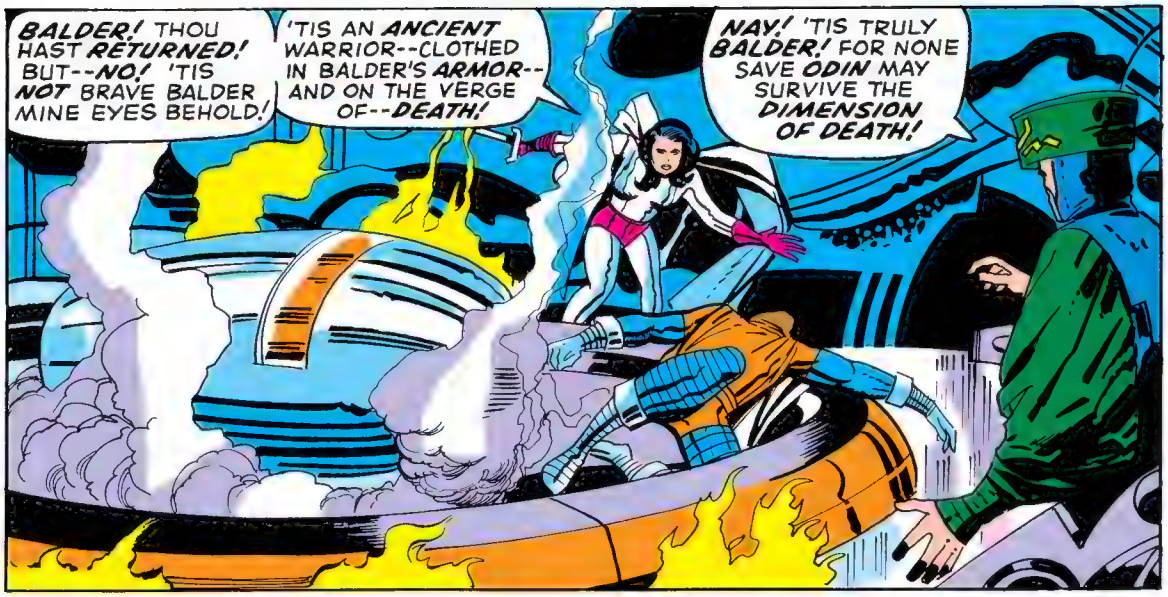

BUT, 'TIS IN VAIN! NO SIMPLE THRUST OF SPEAR OR SWORD CAN FELL THE MONSTROUS SURTUR!
WITH HEAT ALONE, HE MELTS THINE ARMS IN A SUDDEN BLAZE OF POWER!
12

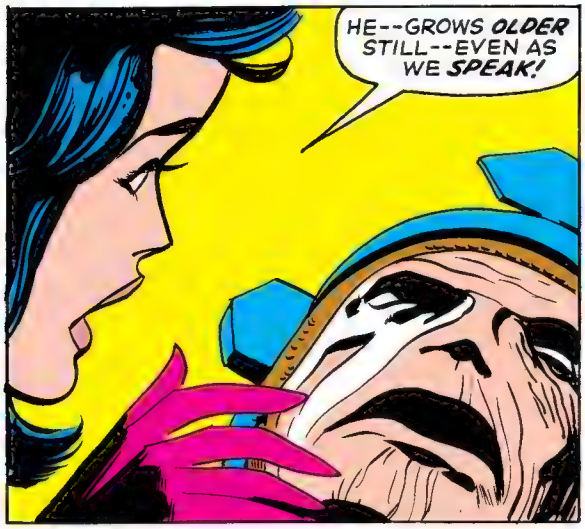
REGROUP THY FORCES! LOOK TO THINE ARMOR! LET EVERY MAN TAKE HEART!
MAYHAP WE STAND! MAYHAP WE FALL! BUT WE SHARE OUR FATE--TOGETHER!

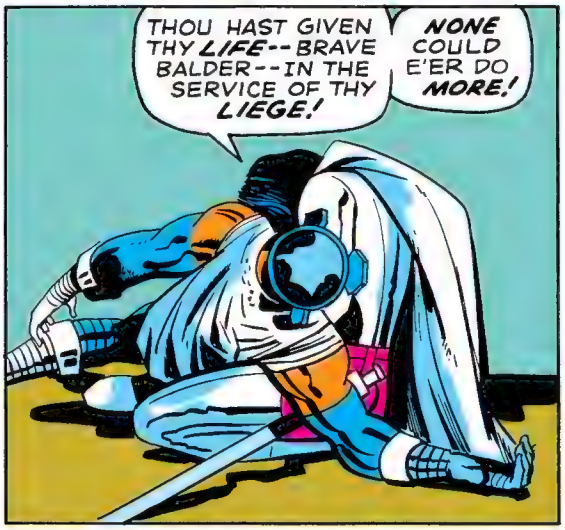
HOGUN THE GRIM--AND DASHING FANDRAL! WHITHER GOEST THOU?
GOD OF THUNDER, THOU HAST DONE THY SHARE!
NOW RIDE WE --TO DO OURS!
BUT HOLD! YOU HAVE NOT THE POWER--!
13

DOTH NOT HOGUN HAVE HIS MACE?
AND WHAT OF FANDRAL'S FLASHING BLADE?
THOR SAYS THEE NAY! THERE BE EVEN MORE--!
THERE BE THE POWER OF THE GOD OF THUNDER-- WHICH I SEND TO SERVE THEE NOW--!
POWER ENOW TO FIND A DISTANT PLANETOID-- AND CAUSE THE FURY OF THE STORM TO HURL IT AT THE FOE!
WARRIORS, STAND FAST! THE DEED IS DONE!
THOUGH WE LOVE THEE LIKE UNTO A BROTHER-- THOU HAST ANGERED US!
WITH SWORD AND MACE WE FLEW TO BATTLE--BUT THOR HATH DOWNED OUR FOE!

I ONLY SOUGHT TO SAVE TWO LIVES-- FOR ASGARD HATH MUCH NEED OF THEE!
SEE HOW THE STONE BEGINS TO MELT! NOT E'EN A PLANETOID CAN CONQUER SURTUR!
THOR SPEAKETH WORDS OF WISDOM!
HE HATH PROVEN THE FOLLY OF OUR ATTACK!
TO STAND ALONE IS TO SURELY PERISH!
BUT ASGARD DOTH NOT STAND ALONE!
WARRIORS --TAKE THY PLACES IN THE RANKS!
WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST--WE FALTER NOT--!
WE CHARGE-- AND CHARGE AGAIN!
BUT ONE IS ABSENT FROM THE CHARGE --ONE WHOSE WORK IS DONE--WHOSE SPARK OF LIFE IS FLICKERING OUT--
THE CAPSULE --IS FREE! ODIN HATH AWAKENED!
AND SO... LET BALDER ...DIE...
15


BALDER! THOU HAST RETURNED! BUT--NO! 'TIS NOT BRAVE BALDER MINE EYES BEHOLD!
'TIS AN ANCIENT WARRIOR--CLOTHED IN BALDER'S ARMOR--AND ON THE VERGE OF--DEATH!
NAY! 'TIS TRULY BALDER! FOR NONE SAVE ODIN MAY SURVIVE THE DIMENSION OF DEATH!


HE--GROWS OLDER STILL--EVEN AS WE SPEAK!

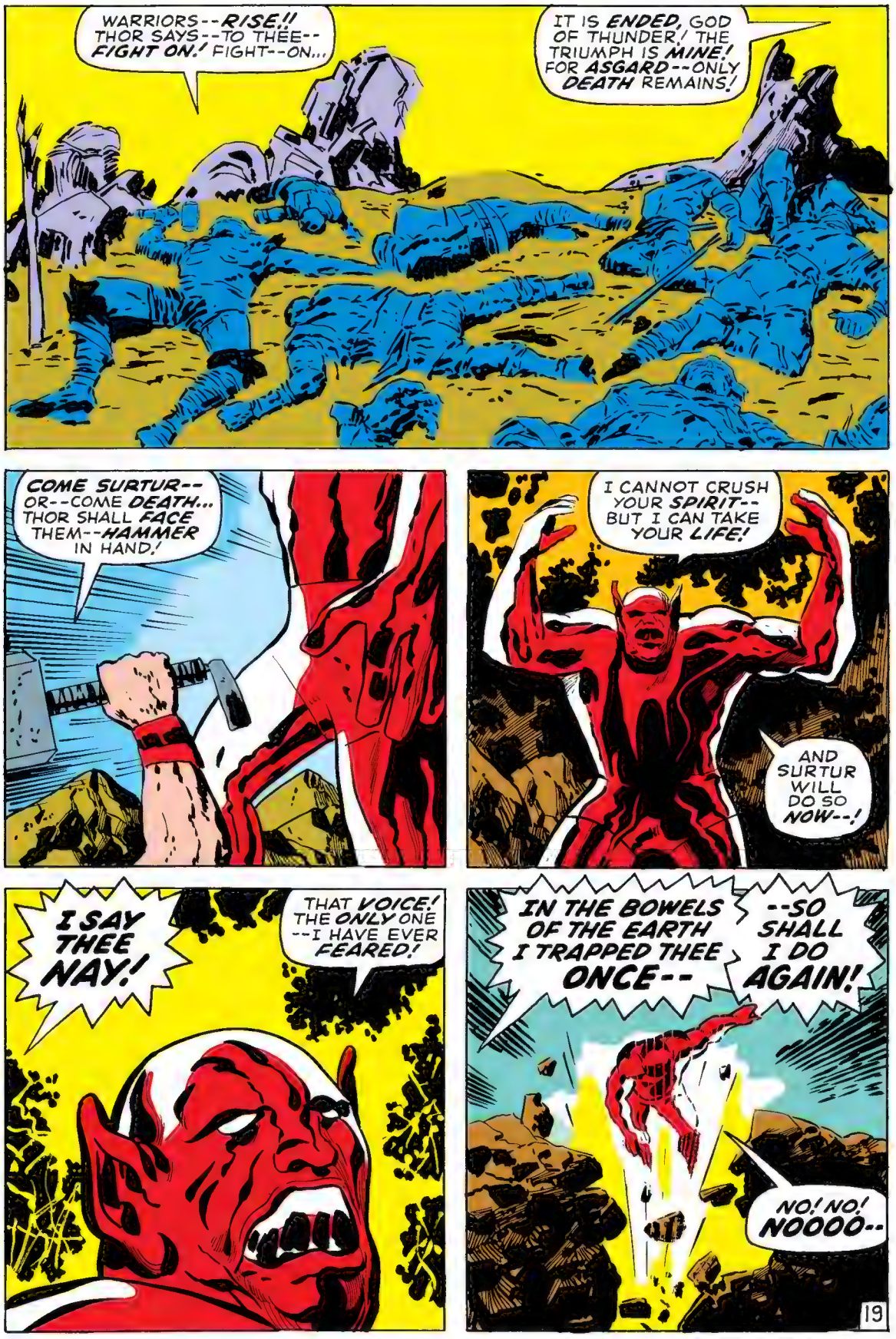

THOU HAST GIVEN THY LIFE--BRAVE BALDER--IN THE SERVICE OF THY LIEGE!
NONE COULD E'ER DO MORE!

MOURN NOT, FAIR GODDESS! THE SPARK OF LIFE STILL FLICKERS!

AND MINE IS THE POWER TO STRENGTHEN IT ANEW!
MY LORD ODIN! THOU ART RETURNED!
AYE! AND VENGEANCE IS AT HAND!

WHILE, ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE--
'TIS HOPELESS! SURTUR DOES BUT TOY WITH US!
HIS PATIENCE GROWS THIN! HIS FURY MOUNTS!
OUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST HIS FLAME!
EVEN OUR SHIELDS CANNOT PROTECT US!
WITH THE MEREST TOUCH, HE SETS THEM ABLAZE!
THE END HATH COME--BUT WE SHALL NOT FALTER!
WITH GODS WE HAVE LIVED! LIKE GODS LET US DIE!
THE TIME IS COME! ASGARD SHALL STAND NO MORE!

BUT ONE STILL STRIKES DARING TO USE HIS POWER AGAINST ME!
WHILST BREATH REMAINS--THE THUNDER GOD FIGHTS ON!
THEN LET BREATH REMAIN--NO MORE!!
THE FROST GUN! FIRE! I SAY THEE--FIRE!
MY PRINCE! THOU DIDST SURVIVE HIS BLAST!
THE MONSTER MUST BE STOPPED!
NO MATTER IF THOR LIVE OR DIE--
LET SURTUR BE ENTOMBED--WITHIN A CAGE OF ICE!
AGAIN HIS FLAME GROWS STRONGER!! THE ICE BEGINS--TO MELT!!


WARRIORS--RISE!! THOR SAYS--TO THEE--FIGHT ON! FIGHT--ON...
IT IS ENDED, GOD OF THUNDER! THE TRIUMPH IS MINE! FOR ASGARD--ONLY DEATH REMAINS!
COME SURTUR--OR--COME DEATH... THOR SHALL FACE THEM--HAMMER IN HAND!
I CANNOT CRUSH YOUR SPIRIT--BUT I CAN TAKE YOUR LIFE!
AND SURTUR WILL DO SO NOW--!
I SAY THEE NAY!
THAT VOICE! THE ONLY ONE --I HAVE EVER FEARED!
IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH I TRAPPED THEE ONCE--
--SO SHALL I DO AGAIN!
NO! NO! NOOOO--

NOOOOOOOOOOO
THE GOD OF FIRE HATH BEEN-- ENTOMBED!
THEN--WE DID NOT FIGHT IN VAIN! ASGARD SHALL LIVE!
RISE, ASGARDIANS!
THOU ART WARRIORS ALL! AND, THOUGH THY LIMBS BE WEAK AND ACHING--
--LET US STAND LIKE VICTORS-- FOR WE BE DEFENDERS OF THE REALM!
LET US HAIL THE ONE WE SERVE--THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US TRIUMPH--
THE WAY AND THE LIGHT-- THE POWER AND THE WORD--
HAIL TO ODIN! STILL DOTH HE REIGN SURREME!
20
NEXT
THE STRANGER!

THOR
15¢
178
JULY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THOR HAS DARED INVADE THE REALM OF THE STRANGER! THEREFORE HE MUST DIE!
AND THE ABOMINATION WILL KILL HIM!
DEATH IS A STRANGER!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

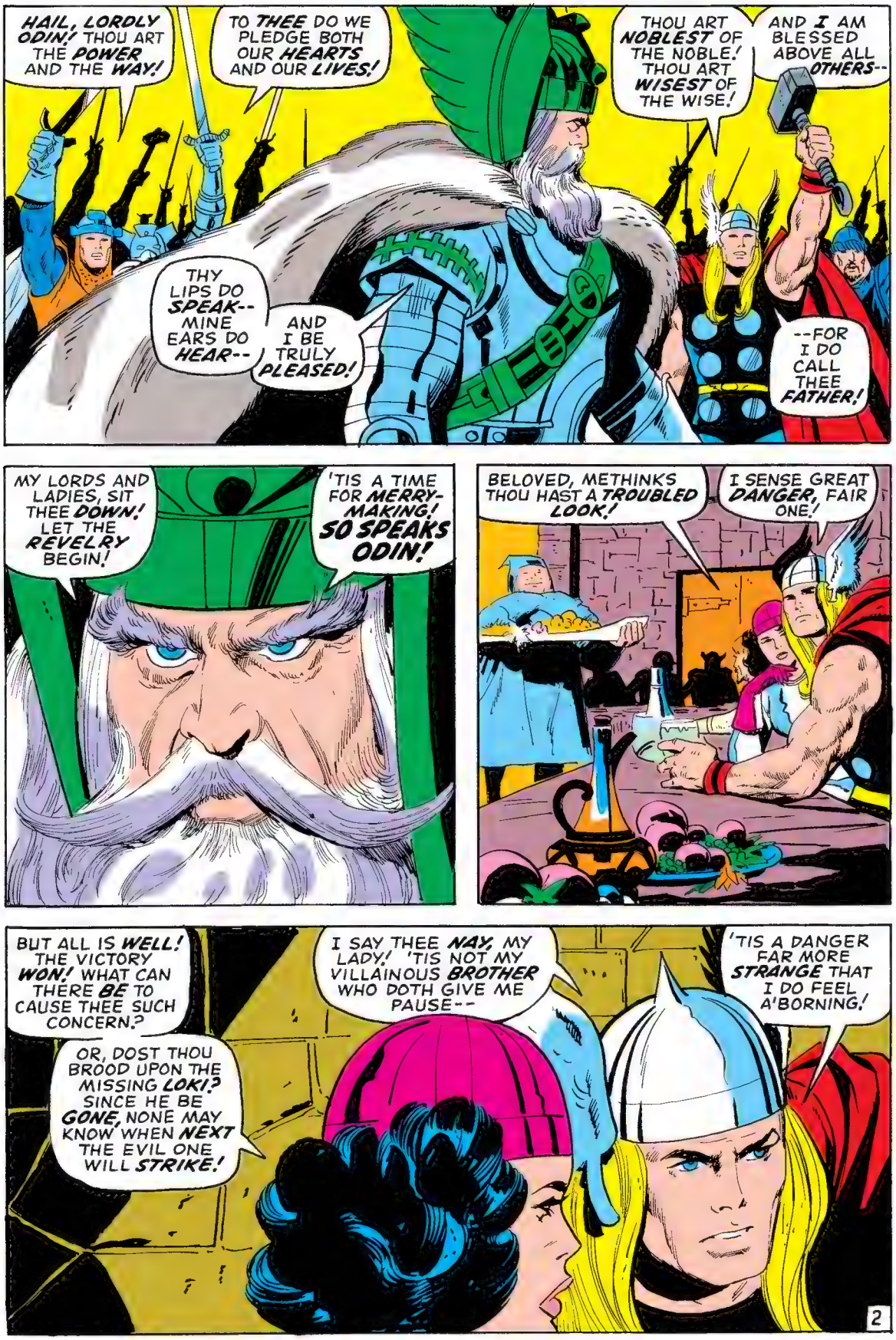
DEATH IS A STRANGER

CO-FEATURING:
THE AWESOME ABOMINATION

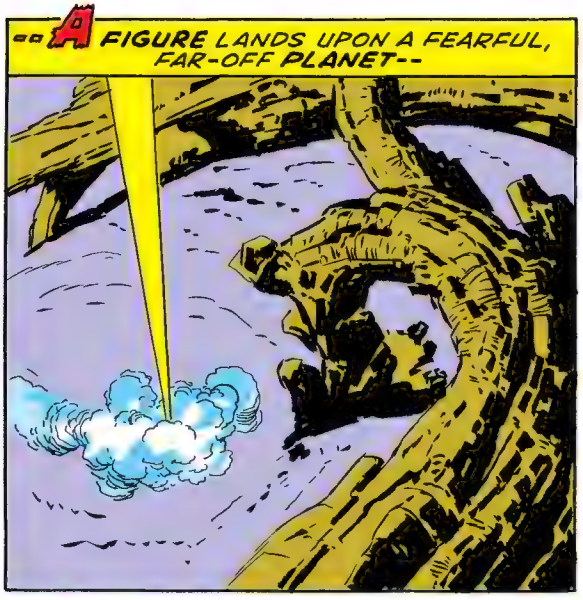
LET ALL HEADS BOW! LET ALL KNEES BEND!
OMNIPOTENT ODIN, ALL-FATHER ETERNAL, DOTH NOW APPEAR!
SO KNOW YE ALL-- WE BE IN THE PRESENCE!

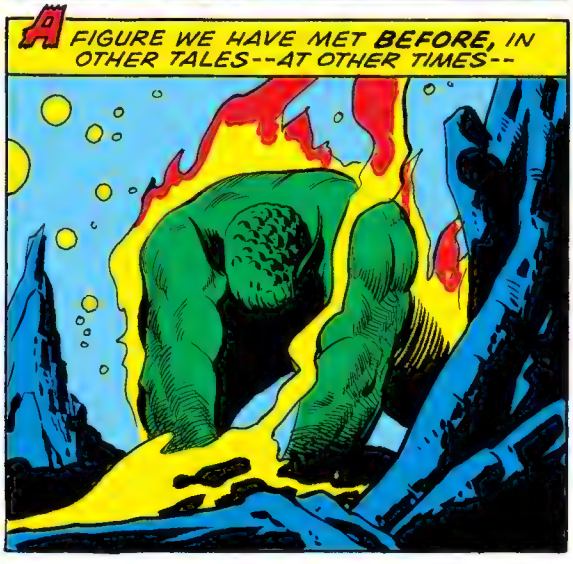
LAST ISSUE WE SAW A BATTLE WON! AND NOW, WE BEG THEE TO JOIN THE HOSTS OF ASGARD, IN TRIBUTE TO THE VICTORS!

STORY -- STAN LEE
DRAWING -- JOHN BUSCEMA
INKING -- VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING -- ARTIE SIMEK


HAIL, LORDLY ODIN! THOU ART THE POWER AND THE WAY!
TO THEE DO WE PLEDGE BOTH OUR HEARTS AND OUR LIVES!
THOU ART NOBLEST OF THE NOBLE! THOU ART WISEST OF THE WISE!
AND I AM BLESSED ABOVE ALL OTHERS--
THY LIPS DO SPEAK-- MINE EARS DO HEAR--
AND I BE TRULY PLEASED!
--FOR I DO CALL THEE FATHER!
MY LORDS AND LADIES, SIT THEE DOWN! LET THE REVELRY BEGIN!
'TIS A TIME FOR MERRY-MAKING! SO SPEAKS ODIN!
BELOVED, METHINKS THOU HAST A TROUBLED LOOK!
I SENSE GREAT DANGER, FAIR ONE!
BUT ALL IS WELL! THE VICTORY WON! WHAT CAN THERE BE TO CAUSE THEE SUCH CONCERN?
OR, DOST THOU BROOD UPON THE MISSING LOKI? SINCE HE BE GONE, NONE MAY KNOW WHEN NEXT THE EVIL ONE WILL STRIKE!
I SAY THEE NAY, MY LADY! 'TIS NOT MY VILLAINOUS BROTHER WHO DOTH GIVE ME PAUSE--
'TIS A DANGER FAR MORE STRANGE THAT I DO FEEL A'BORNING!
2

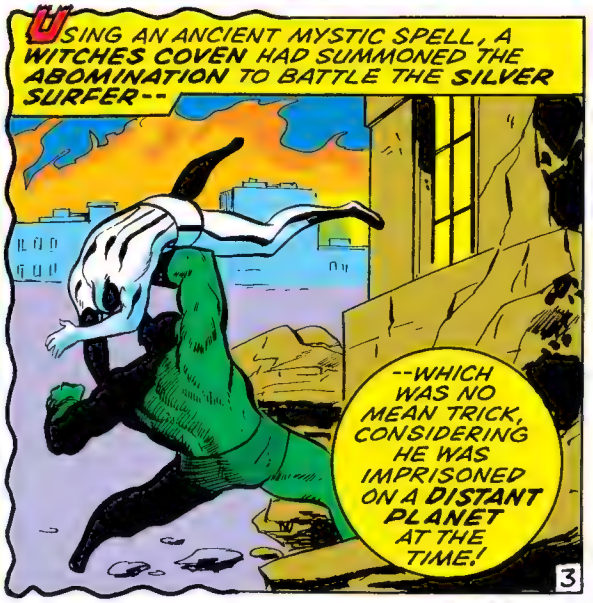
AND, EVEN AS THE GOD OF THUNDER BROODS; SOMEWHERE IN SPACE--


A FIGURE LANDS UPON A FEARFUL, FAR-OFF PLANET--


A FIGURE WE HAVE MET BEFORE, IN OTHER TALES--AT OTHER TIMES--

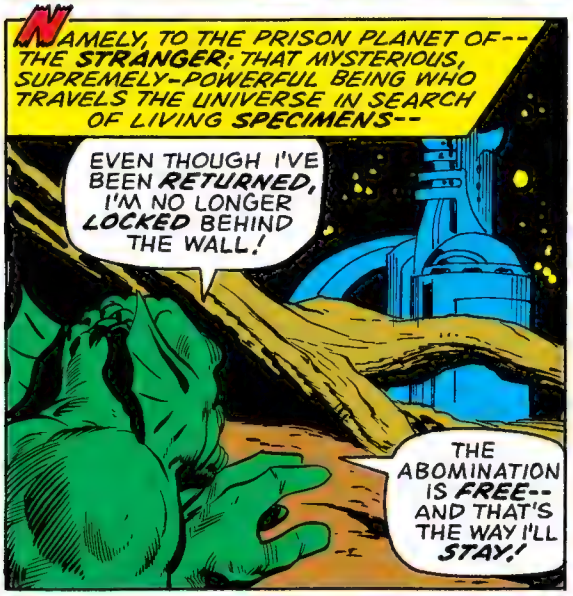
THE DREADED, DEADLY ABOMINATION!
I'M BACK! BACK! BACK!

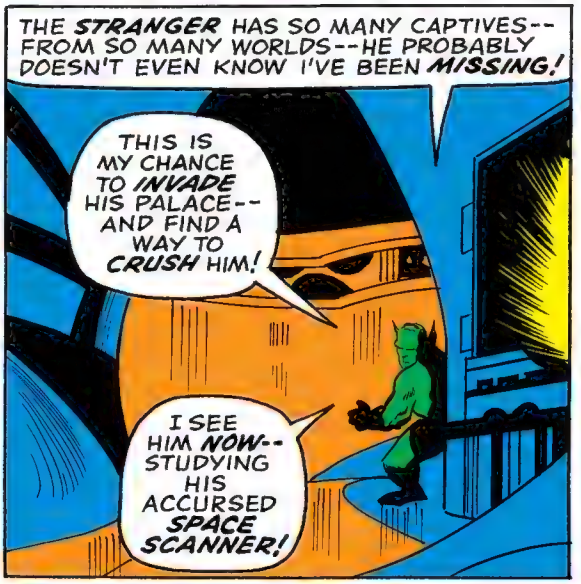
IT WAS THE DOING OF THE SILVER SURFER!
HE MADE THE WITCHES SEND ME BACK!*
*FROM SILVER SURFER #12! IF YOU MISSED IT, STAY COOL--WE'LL CLUE YOU IN ON THE WHOLE SHMEAR IN THE NEXT THREE PANELS! --SOLICITOUS STAN.


USING AN ANCIENT MYSTIC SPELL, A WITCHES COVEN HAD SUMMONED THE ABOMINATION TO BATTLE THE SILVER SURFER--
--WHICH WAS NO MEAN TRICK, CONSIDERING HE WAS IMPRISONED ON A DISTANT PLANET AT THE TIME!
3

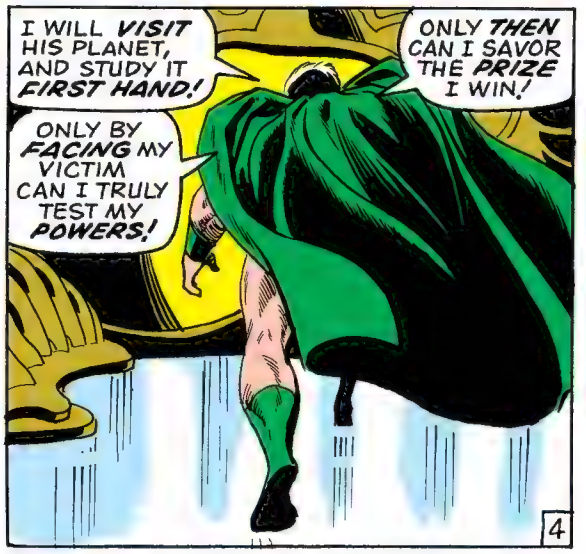
THE BATTLE WAS A GREAT ONE, EVEN IF WE SAY SO OURSELVES--

BUT IT ENDED WITH ANOTHER MAGIC SPELL SENDING THE ABOMINATION BACK FROM WHENCE HE HAD COME--


NAMELY, TO THE PRISON PLANET OF-- THE STRANGER; THAT MYSTERIOUS, SUPREMELY-POWERFUL BEING WHO TRAVELS THE UNIVERSE IN SEARCH OF LIVING SPECIMENS--
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN RETURNED, I'M NO LONGER LOCKED BEHIND THE WALL!
THE ABOMINATION IS FREE-- AND THAT'S THE WAY I'LL STAY!


THE STRANGER HAS SO MANY CAPTIVES-- FROM SO MANY WORLDS--HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'VE BEEN MISSING!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO INVADE HIS PALACE-- AND FIND A WAY TO CRUSH HIM!
I SEE HIM NOW-- STUDYING HIS ACCURSED SPACE SCANNER!

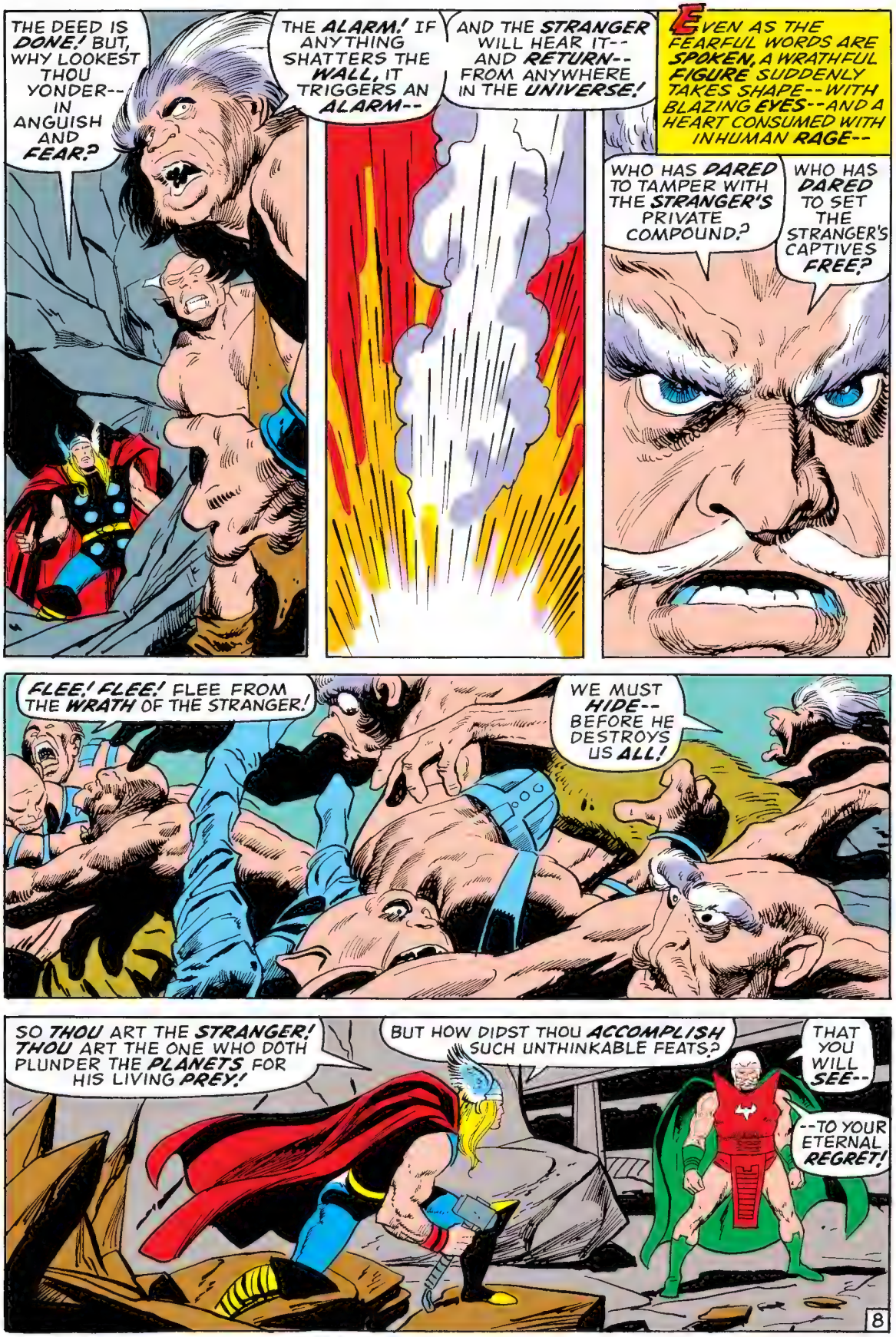
MY SCANNER HAS FOUND ANOTHER WORLD--WITH ANOTHER SPECIMAN FOR ME TO SEIZE!
WITH THE MEREST TOUCH OF MY TELEPORTATION SWITCH, I COULD BRING HIM TO ME!
BUT I CHOOSE TO USE ANOTHER METHOD!


I WILL VISIT HIS PLANET, AND STUDY IT FIRST HAND!
ONLY BY FACING MY VICTIM CAN I TRULY TEST MY POWERS!
ONLY THEN CAN I SAVOR THE PRIZE I WIN!

TIME AND AGAIN I MUST PROVE THAT THE STRANGER IS MASTER OF ALL!
AND SO I FLY TO FACE THE FOE--
HE'S GONE!
SO THAT'S HOW HE TRAVELS! HE JUST WISHES HIMSELF ANY-WHERE!
HOW CAN ANYONE BEAT HIM-- WHEN HE'S GOT POWER LIKE THAT?
EVEN THOUGH I'M STRONG ENOUGH TO BATTLE THE HULK, I WOULDN'T--HEY!
HE LEFT HIS SCANNER ON! IT'S SWEEPING ACROSS THE WHOLE UNIVERSE! A DIFFERENT SCENE COMES INTO VIEW EVERY SECOND!
BUT I BETTER HIDE MYSELF, BEFORE HE RETURNS!
THAT SWITCH! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT IT!
HOPE IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING IMPORTANT!
FTK!

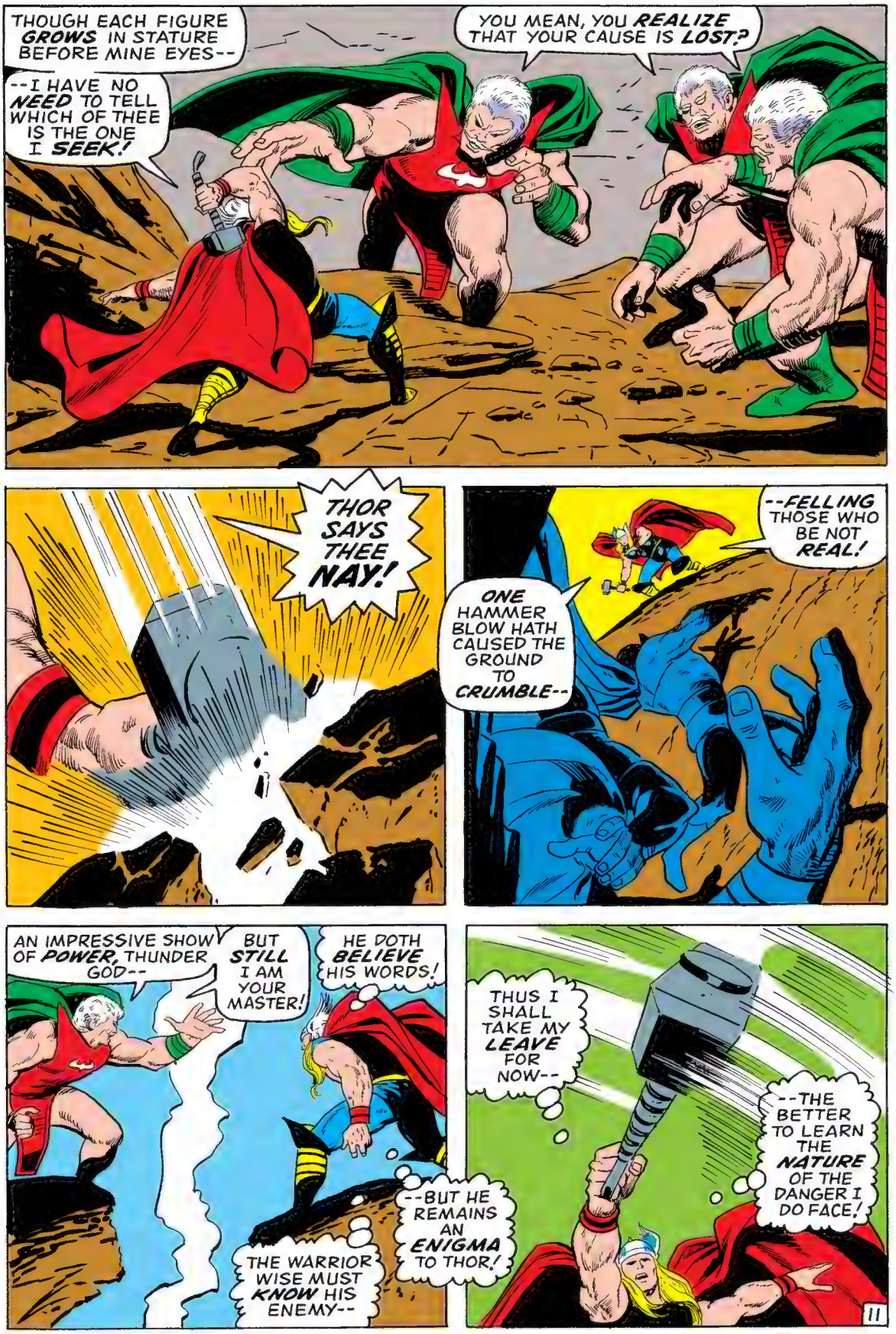
OH NO! NO! IT'S--THE TELEPORTATION SWITCH!
WHATEVER WAS ON THE SCREEN WHEN THE SWITCH WAS THROWN--GETS BROUGHT HERE--JUST LIKE I WAS!
BY THE BEARD OF ODIN! WHAT HATH BEFALLEN THE THUNDER GOD?
IT'S THOR--THE GOD OF THUNDER!
IF I COULD TRICK HIM INTO SIDING WITH ME--!
IT WAS THE STRANGER! HE BROUGHT YOU HERE--LIKE HE BROUGHT ME!
THE STRANGER? WHAT MANNER OF BEING IS HE?
AND WHO ART THOU?
I'M A PRISONER HERE--JUST LIKE YOU!
THE STRANGER CAPTURES PEOPLE--FROM OTHER PLANETS--TO STUDY AND ENSLAVE THEM!
HOW DO I KNOW THY LIPS SPEAK THE TRUTH?
DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! FOLLOW ME--I'LL SHOW YOU HIS CAPTIVES!
IT'S WORKING! NOW, IF I JUST PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT--!
A MIGHTY WALL! WHAT DOTH LIE BEYOND?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, THUNDER GOD! LOOK THRU THE RECESSED OPENING--!

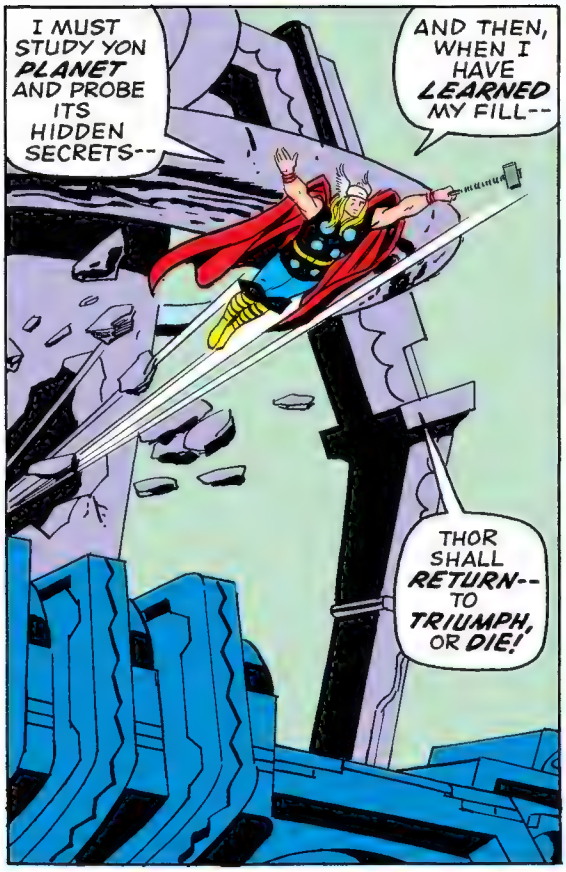
MINE EYES PERCEIVE A MULTITUDE OF LIVING BEINGS --FROM THE FAR-FLUNG REACHES OF THE GALAXIES!
AND, E'EN AS THOU DIDST WARRENT-- THEY ARE CAPTIVES ALL!
I SAY THEE NOW--THEY MUST BE FREE!
BUT SUCH ENSLAVEMENT DOTH INFLAME THE HEART OF THOR!
IF THIS BE THE WALL THAT IMPRISONS THEM--
THEN, BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD--
--THE WALL SHALL STAND NO MORE!
7


THE DEED IS DONE! BUT, WHY LOOKEST THOU YONDER-- IN ANGUISH AND FEAR?
THE ALARM! IF ANYTHING SHATTERS THE WALL, IT TRIGGERS AN ALARM--
AND THE STRANGER WILL HEAR IT-- AND RETURN-- FROM ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE!
EVEN AS THE FEARFUL WORDS ARE SPOKEN, A WRATHFUL FIGURE SUDDENLY TAKES SHAPE--WITH BLAZING EYES--AND A HEART CONSUMED WITH INHUMAN RAGE--
WHO HAS DARED TO TAMPER WITH THE STRANGER'S PRIVATE COMPOUND?
WHO HAS DARED TO SET THE STRANGER'S CAPTIVES FREE?
FLEE! FLEE! FLEE FROM THE WRATH OF THE STRANGER!
WE MUST HIDE-- BEFORE HE DESTROYS US ALL!
SO THOU ART THE STRANGER! THOU ART THE ONE WHO DOTH PLUNDER THE PLANETS FOR HIS LIVING PREY!
BUT HOW DIDST THOU ACCOMPLISH SUCH UNTHINKABLE FEATS?
THAT YOU WILL SEE--
--TO YOUR ETERNAL REGRET!
8

KNOW YOU THAT I BE THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THOU CAN'T NOT PIT THY MORTAL POWER AGAINST THE SON OF ODIN!
MORTAL? YOU THINK MY POWER IS MERELY MORTAL?
WATCH, AND YOU WILL LEARN THE AWESOME TRUTH--!
NOT EVEN THOR CAN DEFY THE ALL-POWERFUL STRANGER!
WITH BUT A GESTURE, HE HATH CREATED QUICKSAND BENEATH MY FEET!
EVEN AS I WATCH, MY LIMBS DO SINK INTO THE HUNGRY QUAGMIRE!
BUT SUCH A FATE IS NOT FOR THOR!
NOT WHILE MIGHTY MJOLNIR STILL MAY STRIKE!
HOW CAN YOU FIGHT ME--?
ALMOST ANYTHING I THINK--I CAN INSTANTLY DO!

THEN THOR MUST STRIKE BEFORE THOU CANST THINK!
AND STRIKE I SHALL!
NO SAND CAN HOLD THE ONE WHO COMMANDS ENCHANTED MJOLNIR!
SO! I HAVE FINALLY FOUND A FOE WHO IS WORTHY OF MY METTLE!
YOU WILL BE MY GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL!
THOR SAYS THEE NOW-- SURRENDER!
I HAVE NO WISH TO INFLICT INJURY-- THOUGH THOU ART SURE DESERVING!
FOOL! IN ORDER TO INJURE THE STRANGER--
--YOU FIRST MUST FIND ME!
HOW CAN YOU TELL THE REAL FROM THE REPLICA?
10


THOUGH EACH FIGURE GROWS IN STATURE BEFORE MINE EYES--
--I HAVE NO NEED TO TELL WHICH OF THEE IS THE ONE I SEEK!
YOU MEAN, YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR CAUSE IS LOST?
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
ONE HAMMER BLOW HATH CAUSED THE GROUND TO CRUMBLE--
--FELLING THOSE WHO BE NOT REAL!
AN IMPRESSIVE SHOW OF POWER, THUNDER GOD--
BUT STILL I AM YOUR MASTER!
HE DOTH BELIEVE HIS WORDS!
THE WARRIOR WISE MUST KNOW HIS ENEMY--
--BUT HE REMAINS AN ENIGMA TO THOR!
THUS I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE FOR NOW--
--THE BETTER TO LEARN THE NATURE OF THE DANGER I DO FACE!


I MUST STUDY YON PLANET AND PROBE ITS HIDDEN SECRETS--
AND THEN, WHEN I HAVE LEARNED MY FILL--
THOR SHALL RETURN-- TO TRIUMPH, OR DIE!

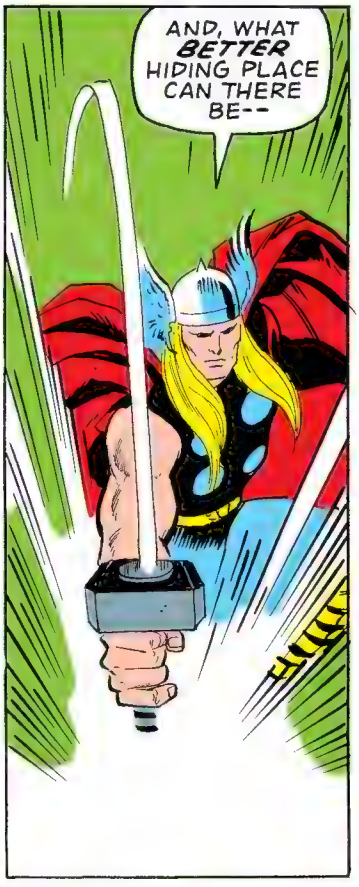
MEANWHILE, IN THE GREAT ASGARDIAN THRONE ROOM--
MY SON HATH VANISHED!
'TIS CONDUCT MOST UNSEEMLY!
12

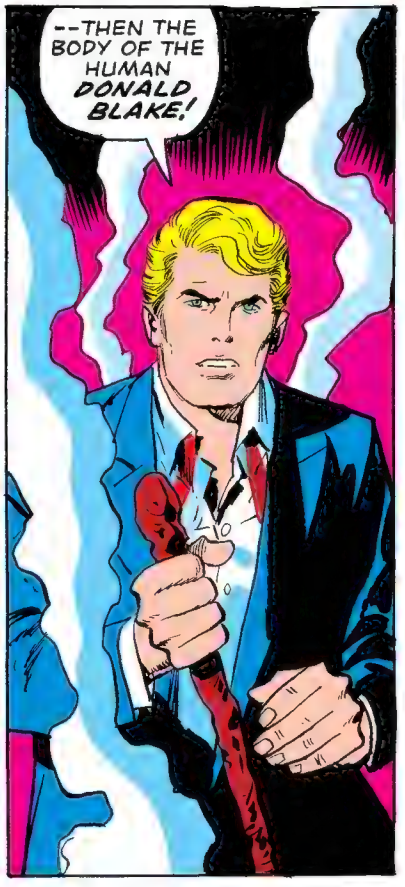
MY LORD, I CRAVE THE RIGHT TO SEEK THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THY WISH IS GRANTED, GODDESS!

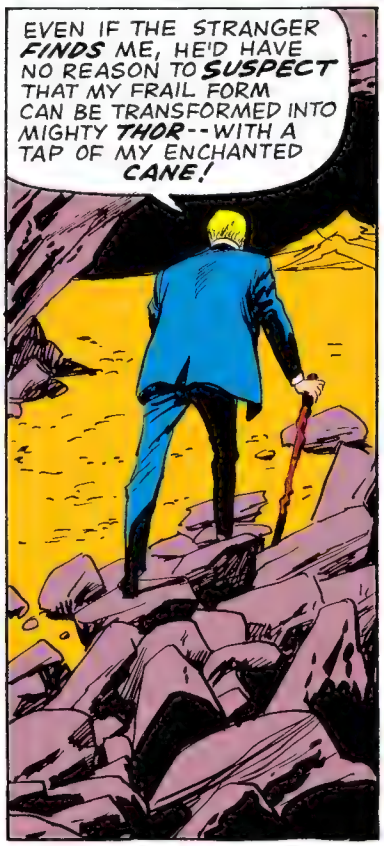
THOUGH THE UNIVERSE BE VAST AND ENDLESS-- WHERE'ER THY SON MAY BE--

THE LOVE THAT BURNS WITHIN MY HEART--SHALL LEAD ME TO HIM!
13

AND, EVEN AS THE STUNNING SIF SPEAKS--
IF I AM TO BE FREE TO SEEK AND LEARN, THEN I MUST STAY IN HIDING!


AND, WHAT BETTER HIDING PLACE CAN THERE BE--


--THEN THE BODY OF THE HUMAN DONALD BLAKE!


EVEN IF THE STRANGER FINDS ME, HE'D HAVE NO REASON TO SUSPECT THAT MY FRAIL FORM CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO MIGHTY THOR--WITH A TAP OF MY ENCHANTED CANE!

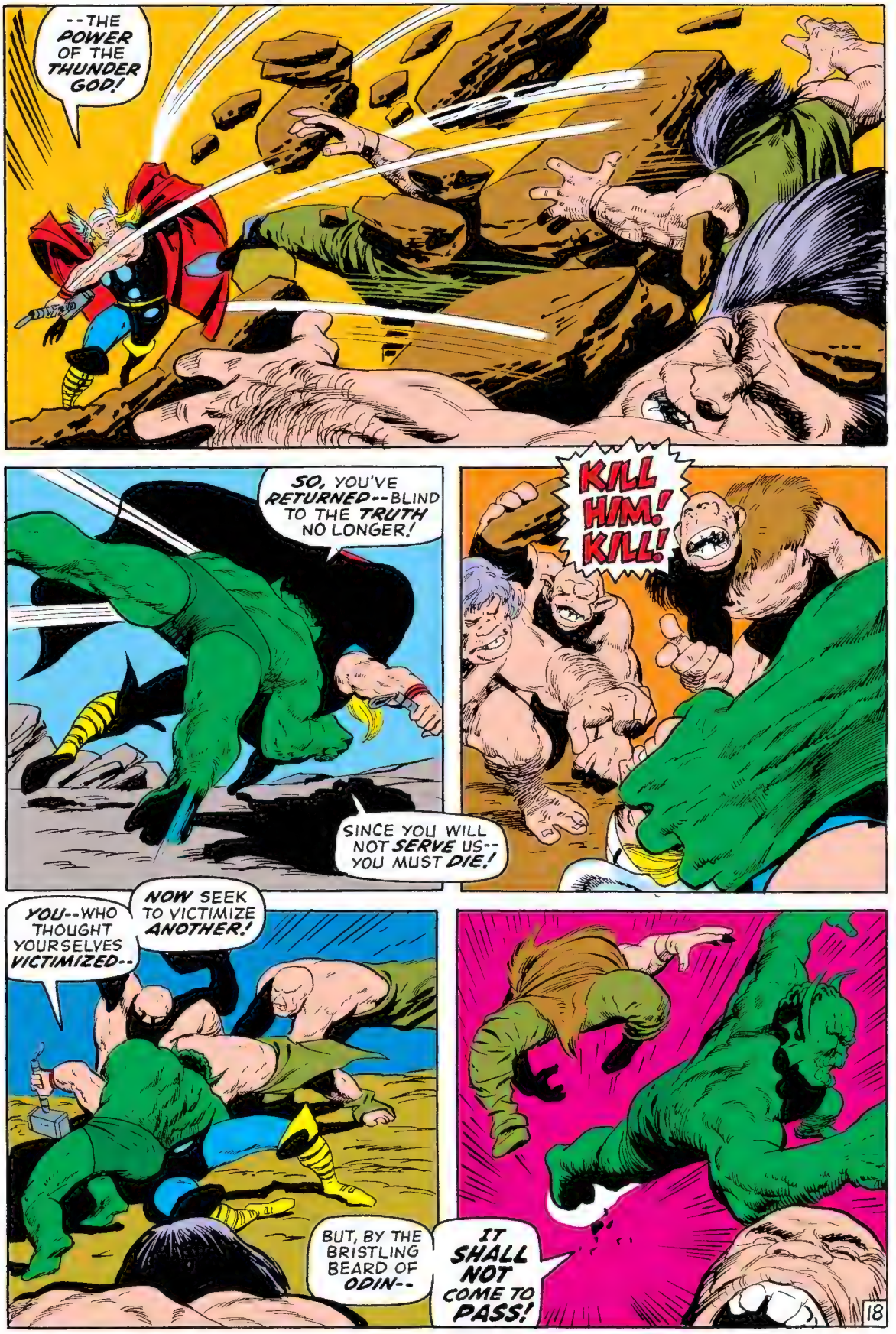
AND NOW TO SEARCH THIS WORLD, AND SEE WHAT THE THUNDER GOD IS REALLY UP AGAINST!
BEHIND THAT ROCK-- I HEAR THE BABBLE OF ALIEN VOICES--

EASY, BLAKE! IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN AND RUN!
YOU'VE GOT TO APPROACH THEM--NO MATTER WHAT!

THE ABOMINATION WILL LEAD US TO VICTORY!
WE WILL BE FREE--TO PILLAGE THE COSMOS!
THE STRANGER ONLY CAPTURED THOSE WHO DESERVED CAPTIVITY --BUT WE WILL MENACE ALL!
NONE WHO LIVE WILL BE SAFE FROM OUR ATTACK!
NO! YOU ARE FOOLS! THERE ARE FORCES IN THE UNIVERSE TO STOP YOU!
SILENCE HIM!
SILENCE THE STRANGER'S PUNY LACKEY!
WHOEVER HE IS, HE IS OUR ENEMY!
NO! NO!
I FORGOT MYSELF! FORGOT I WAS NO LONGER IN THE BODY OF THOR!
THROW HIM TO THE ABOMINATION!
MY CANE! IF I CAN STRIKE IT IN TIME--!
DO YOU THINK TO FIGHT US WITH A WALKING STICK?
15

BAH! YOU ARE NOT EVEN WORTH THE EFFORT!
THE CANE! HE SEIZED IT!
LET HIM GO! HE CAN ONLY STARVE-- AND DIE!
WITHOUT MY CANE-- I'M HELP-LESS! BUT I DARE NOT REMAIN!
THEY'RE MERCILESS --UNCONTROLLABLE! THEY'RE KILLERS ALL!
IT'S THEY WHO ARE THE THREAT--AND NOT THE STRANGER!
HE ONLY CAPTURED SPECIMENS WHO WOULD NOT BE MISSED! I KNOW THAT NOW!
BUT, WHAT AM I TO DO?
SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL FIND ME-- AND WITHOUT MY CANE, I'M DOOMED!
I'VE GOT TO RETURN--TO WHERE THE ABOMINATION DROPPED IT!
BUT, LAME AS I AM--HOW COULD I REACH IT--BEFORE I'M SEEN--AND CRUSHED?
I'D GIVE ANYTHING-- ANYTHING-- TO BE THOR AGAIN--FOR JUST A MINUTE!
THOU SHALT HAVE THY WISH!
YOU!
16

TAKE THOU THY STICK--
--AND BECOME MY BELOVED ONCE AGAIN!
THIS TIME NOTHING WILL STOP ME--
--FROM BECOMING--
THE MIGHTY THOR!
HOW DIDST THOU FIND ME, MY LADY!
TORGER, THY FATHER'S MYSTIC SAGE, DID CAST A GUIDING SPELL!
BEHOLD! MORE INTRUDERS!
SLAY THEM! SLAY THEM!
LET NONE REMAIN ALIVE!
GET THEE BACK TO ASGARD, SIF!
THOR NOW MUST FIGHT ALONE!
BUT THOU ART ONE, AND THEY BE MANY!
BUT I AM THOR! AND I HAVE SPOKE!
BEGONE, MY LADY! I WILL JOIN THEE IN THE GOLDEN REALM! THAT DO I SWEAR!
BUT NOW-- 'TIS TIME FOR POWER--!!
17

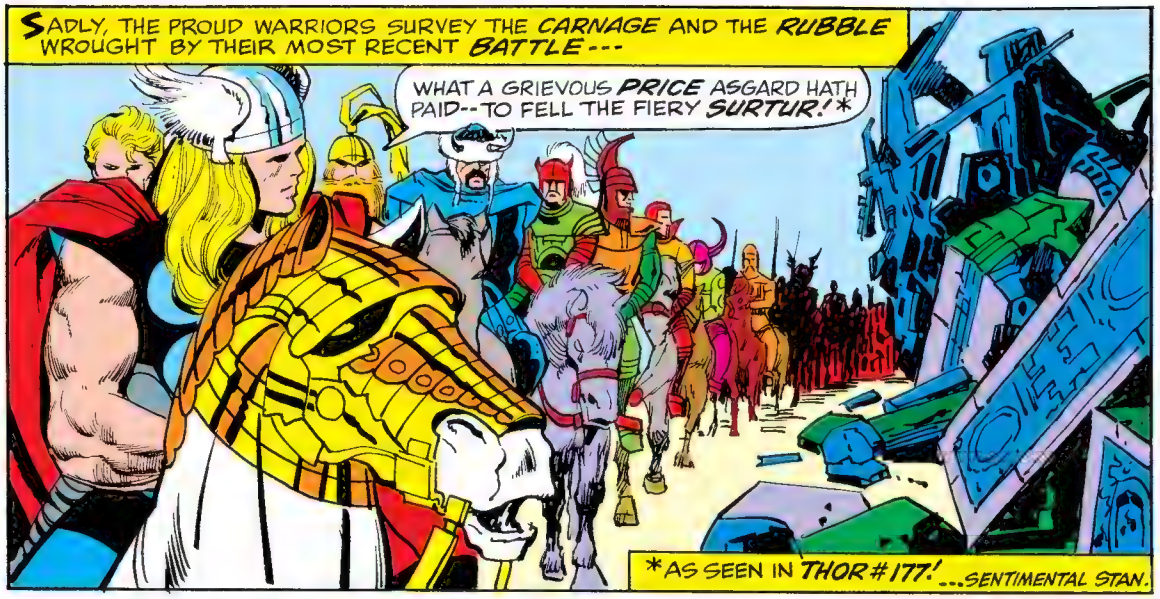

--THE POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD!
SO, YOU'VE RETURNED--BLIND TO THE TRUTH NO LONGER!
SINCE YOU WILL NOT SERVE US--YOU MUST DIE!
KILL HIM! KILL!
YOU--WHO THOUGHT YOURSELVES VICTIMIZED--
NOW SEEK TO VICTIMIZE ANOTHER!
BUT, BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN--
IT SHALL NOT COME TO PASS!

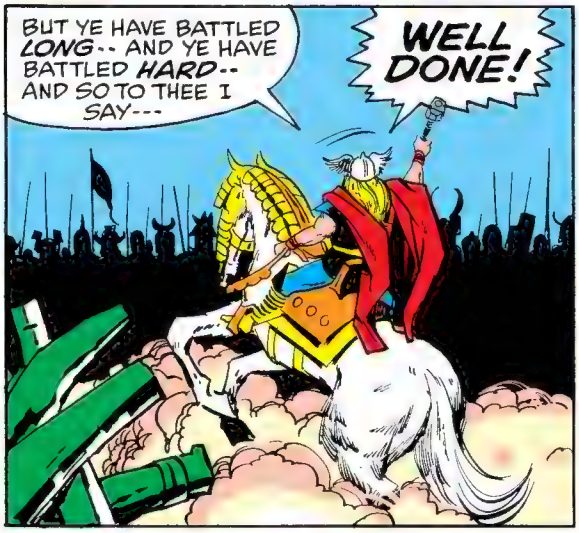
ALL ARE FELLED-- SAVE THE ABOMINATION!
AND NOW-- HE FLEES IN FEAR-- BUT WHY?
BECAUSE THE STRANGER HAS FOUND YOU--
--AND HE KNOWS THE FURY OF MY WRATH!
THE STRANGER! HIS VAST POWER MUST NE'ER BE TURNED AGAINST THE GOLDEN REALM!
SINCE HE KNOWS THOR DOTH EXIST --HE MAY FOLLOW ME TO ASGARD--
UNLESS-- I CAUSE HIM TO FORGET!
AND SO I SHALL-- BY MAKING TIME TURN BACK!
IT'S THOR-- THE GOD OF THUNDER!
IF I COULD TRICK HIM INTO SIDING WITH ME--!
'TIS DONE! MIGHTY MJOLNIR HATH REVERSED TIME ITSELF!

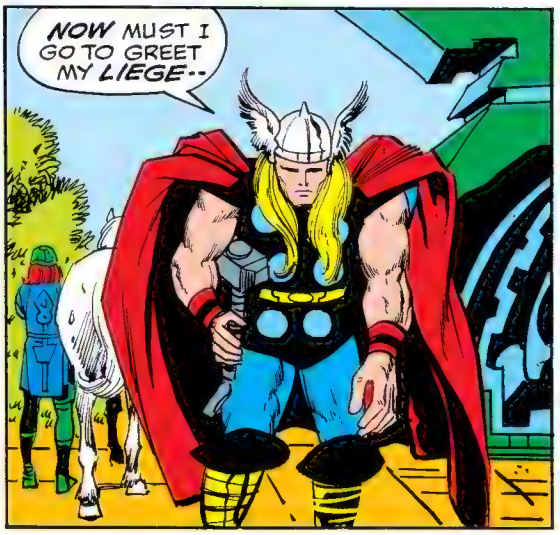
IT WAS THE STRANGER! HE BROUGHT YOU HERE--!
HE DOTH NOT SUSPECT I KNOW! ONE SUDDEN BLOW SHALL CURE THE ILL!
STRONG AS THOU MAY BE-- THOU ART OVERCOME!
NOW ALL ARE SAFE WITHIN THEIR CELLS--
SLAM
--AND THE THREAT TO ASGARD-- ENDED!
THUS, THE GOD OF THUNDER NEED TARRY HERE NO MORE--
--FOR LOVE DOTH WAIT-- WITHIN THE REALM ETERNAL!
MY LORD! THOU HAST RETURNED!
I SAY THEE YEA, MY LADY!
FOR, WHERE THOU ART--
--THERE SHALL THOR FOREVER BE!
NEXT
THE SEARCH FOR LOKI!
20

THOR
15¢
CC
179
AUG
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THUNDER GOD OR NOT--'TIS TIME TO DIE!
THIS TIME THERE MUST BE NO ESCAPE!
BALDER! SIF! IF YE HAVE TURNED ON ME--
--THEN TRULY-- THOR IS LOST!
A HELL ON EARTH IS CREATED BY EVIL LOKI
THOU SHALT NOT MISS IT!

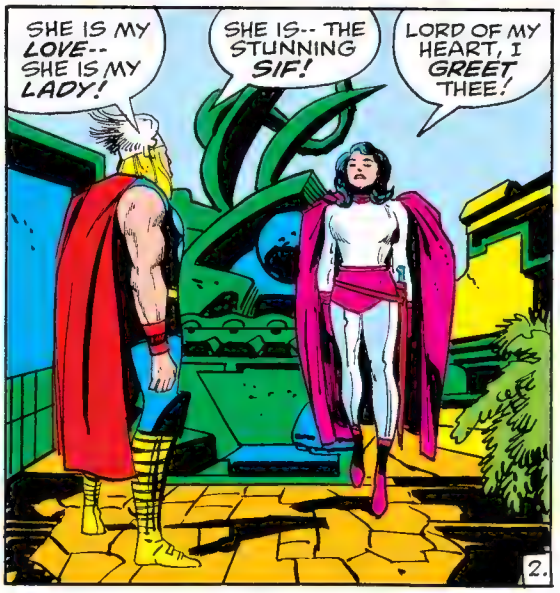
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
NO MORE THE THUNDER GOD!
BENEATH THE GIGANTIC STATUE OF HEROES RIDE THE VICTORIOUS LEGIONS OF ASGARD, LED BY THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER--THOR, SON OF ODIN!
FEATURING: THE TERRIBLE VENGEANCE OF LOKI!
BY STAN LEE JACK KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
340-Z


SADLY, THE PROUD WARRIORS SURVEY THE CARNAGE AND THE RUBBLE WROUGHT BY THEIR MOST RECENT BATTLE---
WHAT A GRIEVOUS PRICE ASGARD HATH PAID--TO FELL THE FIERY SURTUR!*
*AS SEEN IN THOR #177!...SENTIMENTAL STAN.


BUT YE HAVE BATTLED LONG-- AND YE HAVE BATTLED HARD-- AND SO TO THEE I SAY---
WELL DONE!


NOW MUST I GO TO GREET MY LIEGE--

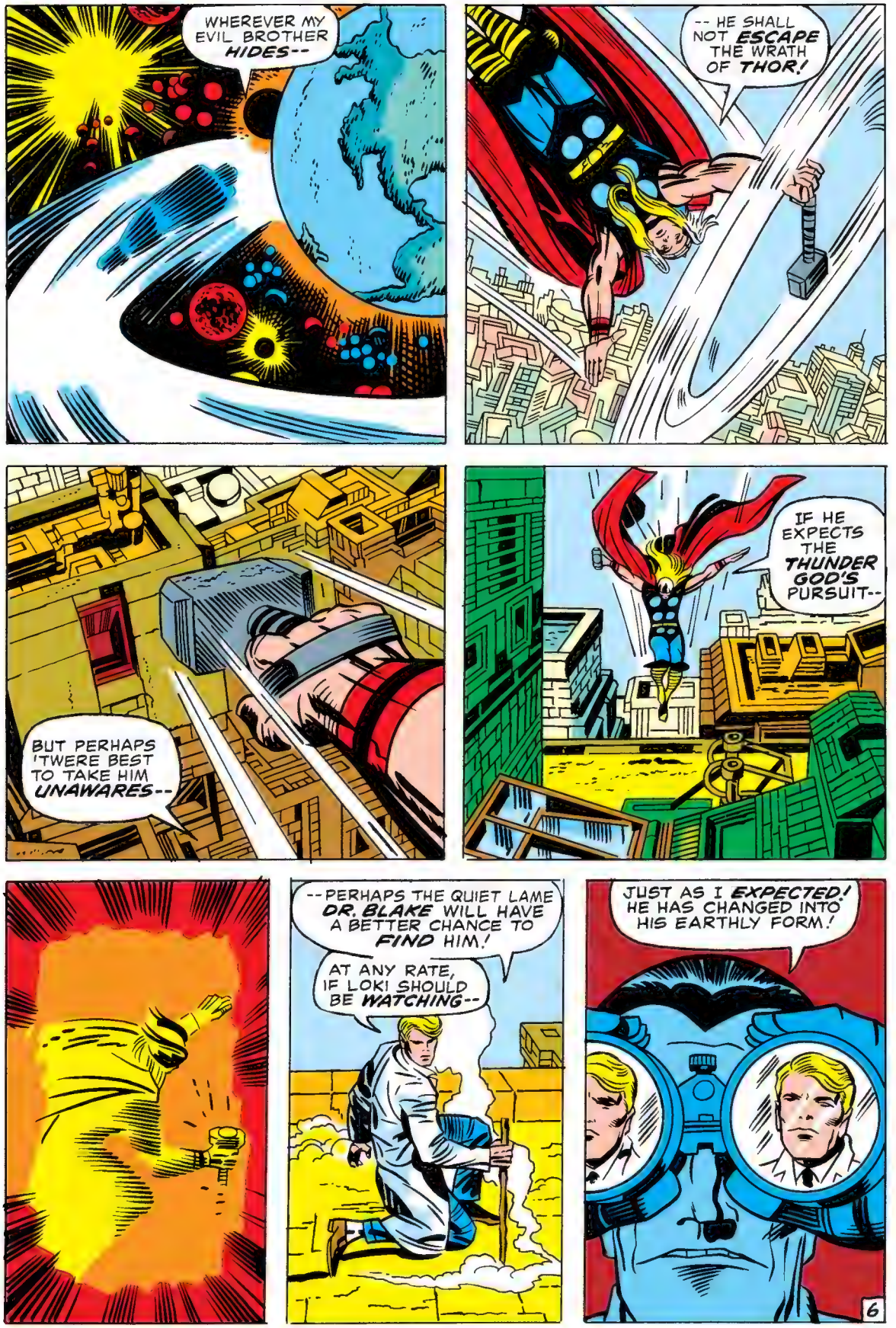
--AND HOPE TO SPY, WITHIN HIS COURT, THE ONE I LOVE SO WELL---
THE PROUDEST OF THE PROUD--- THE FAIREST OF THE FAIR---


SHE IS MY LOVE-- SHE IS MY LADY!
SHE IS-- THE STUNNING SIF!
LORD OF MY HEART, I GREET THEE!
2.

BUT, WHY ART THOU SO GRIM -- SO UNSMILING?
MY HEART IS HEAVY, LADY-- AND 'TIS FOR THE WANT OF THEE!
MY FATHER HATH SUMMONED ME-- AND I FEAR A MISSION DOTH AWAIT THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THEN, THIS MAY BE GOOD-BYE, BELOVED!
WHAT? DAREST THOU TO TARRY-- WHEN THY LIEGE HATH SUMMONED THEE?
FATHER!
NOW BEND THY KNEES--- FOR YE BE IN THE PRESENCE!
ALL HOMAGE TO THE TRUE LORD OF ASGARD!
NOW RISE YE BOTH, AND HEAR THE WORDS OF ODIN!
BUT WE ARE FATED TO HEAR DIFFERENT WORDS-- FROM THE FUGITIVE GOD OF EVIL, IN HIDING ON THE PLANET EARTH--
IGRON, IS THE POTION READY?
AY, MY LORD! THE TIME IS COME!
THE ENCHANTMENT IS NOW COMPLETED!
THEN STAND ASIDE, MAGICIAN!
3.

BUT HOLD! THE MENIALS HAVE ARRIVED!
YOUR DINNER, SIR! PREPARED EXACTLY AS YOU ORDERED!
NATURALLY! I AM PREPARED TO PAY FOR PERFECTION -- AND THAT IS WHAT I EXPECT!
CERTAINLY, SIR-- CERTAINLY!
DO NOT BOTHER LEAVING ME THE CHECK TO SIGN---
BUT---
I HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH PETTY TRIFLES!
-- SINCE MONEY IS TOTALLY MEANINGLESS TO ONE SUCH AS ME!
TAKE THIS, THEN-- AND BEGONE!
AND KNOW YOU, I AM TO BE DISTURBED NO MORE!
WHEN WE ARE GONE, THE MONEY TOO WILL VANISH--- LIKE THE TRIFLING ILLUSION THAT IT WAS!
AND NOW, IGRON-- TO WORK ONCE MORE!
4

THE MASK! THE MASK!
OUR TIME GROWS SHORT, MAGICIAN!
FEAR NOT, MY LORD!
BY THE TIME THE GOD OF THUNDER FINDS THEE-- ALL WILL BE READY FOR HIM!
AND LOKI SHALL SCORE HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH!
OKAY! NOW THAT WE'VE SET THE STAGE AND POSITIONED OUR CAST, LET'S START THE ACTION--
THY HALF-BROTHER, LOKI, HATH HIDDEN HIMSELF UPON THE PLANET EARTH...
BUT HE HATH MUCH TO ANSWER FOR--SO THOU SHALT BRING HIM HITHER!
THEN THAT IS MY MISSION, SIRE? THOU ART SENDING ME TO EARTH?
I KNOW THINE HEART IS HERE, WITH THE LADY SIF!
A GOD THOU ART-- AND FIRST MUST THOU SERVE THE MISTRESS DUTY!
ODIN HATH SPOKE! SO BE IT!
5


WHEREVER MY EVIL BROTHER HIDES--
-- HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE THE WRATH OF THOR!
BUT PERHAPS 'TWERE BEST TO TAKE HIM UNAWARES--
IF HE EXPECTS THE THUNDER GOD'S PURSUIT--
--PERHAPS THE QUIET LAME DR. BLAKE WILL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO FIND HIM.
AT ANY RATE, IF LOKI SHOULD BE WATCHING--
JUST AS I EXPECTED! HE HAS CHANGED INTO HIS EARTHLY FORM.
6

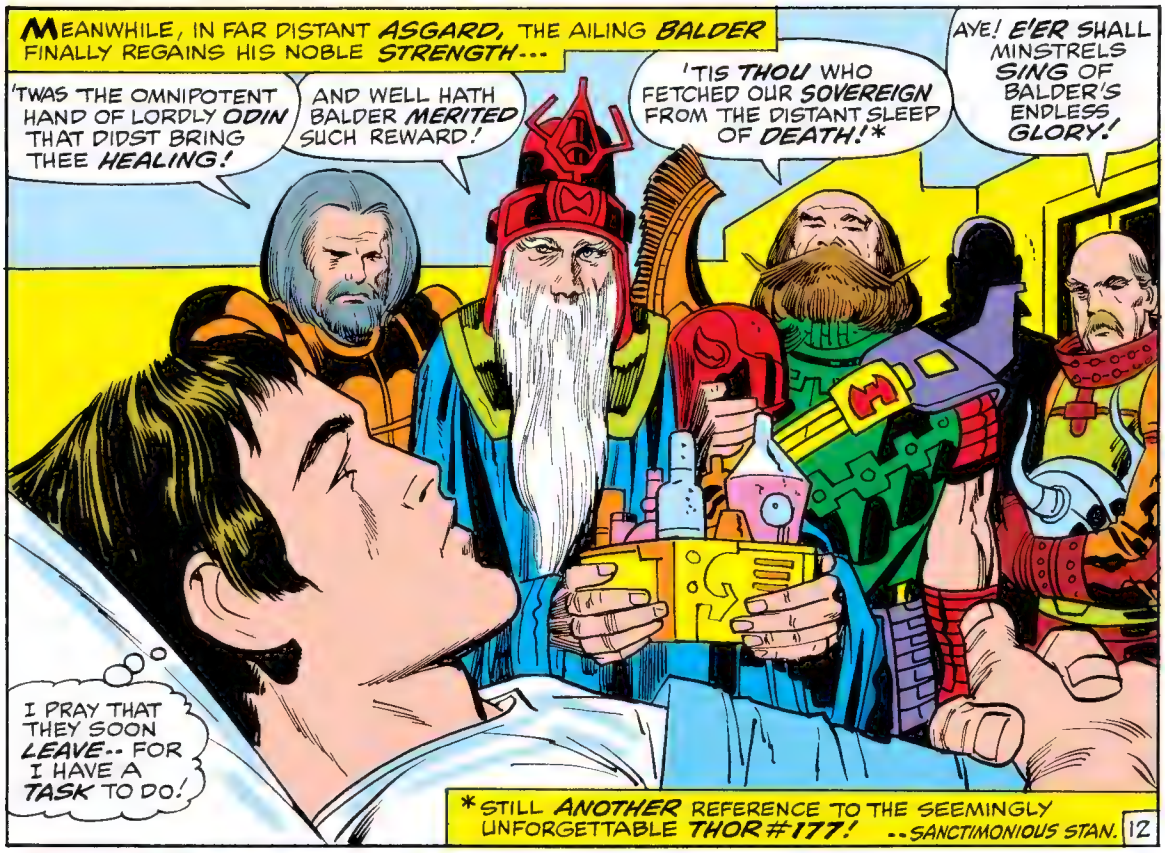
THEN ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE FINAL STEP!
THAT IS TRUE! YOUR WORK IS FINISHED!
I HAVE SERVED THEE FAITHFULLY, MY PRINCE-- IN HOPE OF GREAT REWARD!
OF COURSE--
GET THEE TO THE TROLLS IN ASGARD!
THERE YOU'LL SLAVE FOR THEM-- DIGGING IN THEIR DUNGEONS!
HAH! THUS DOES LOKI GRANT REWARD!
AHH! THE MASK STILL FLOATS WITHIN ITS VIAL---
SEETHING, AS WITH A LIFE THAT IS ALL ITS OWN!
AND NOW, THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR ILLUSION!
SO LOKI SHALL STAND AT LAST REVEALED!
-- READY TO CRUSH THE GOD OF THUNDER!

LET THE HUMANS GAPE AND STARE!
NONE HAVE THE COURAGE--OR POWER--TO STOP ME!
AND NONE WOULD WISH TO BECOME--- INVOLVED!
MY VERY PRESENCE CAUSES THEM UNEASE!
A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE ESSENCE OF MY EVIL!
AND NOW TO FACE-- MY VICTIM!
DONALD BLAKE M.D.
I WILL ATTACK-- BEFORE HE CAN BECOME THE GOD OF THUNDER!
BLAKE! WHERE ARE YOU?
THOR!
DIDST THINK TO FIND ME UNPREPARED, CONNIVING ONE?

I GUESSED THOU WOULDST HAVE SPIED ON ME-- AND SEEN ME CHANGE TO MORTAL FORM!
AND SO I WAITED... AND WAITED NOT IN VAIN!
NOW I TAKE THEE BACK TO ASGARD--TO ANSWER FOR THY CRIMES!
NOT YET, ALAS! NOT YET!
-- NOT WHILE I HAVE THE LIVING MASK!
TRY AS THOU MAY, THOU CANST NOT REMOVE IT!
NOT ALL THINE AWESOME STRENGTH CAN LESSEN ITS ENCHANTMENT!
NOW, EVEN CONSCIOUSNESS DOTH LEAVE THEE!
-- AND ALL THAT REMAINS, IS MYSTIC, LIVING ENERGY!
9.

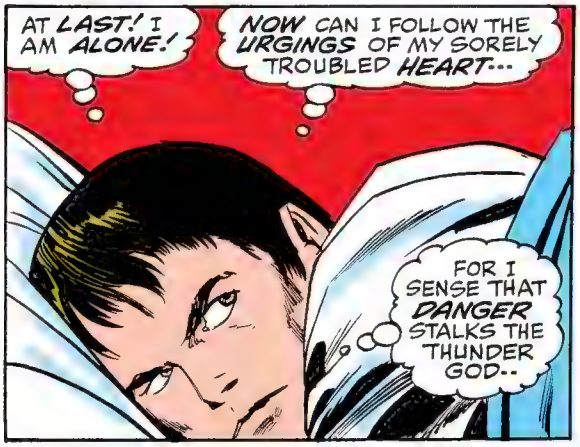
ENERGY--WHICH DOTH ENVELOP BOTH OUR FACES---
AS IT IS MEANT TO DO!
UNTIL, AT LAST, THE GRIM TABLEAU IS ENDED-- AND THE BATTLE WON!
AND NOW THE MASK MAY BE REMOVED---
--FOR, THE FACE BENEATH IS CHANGED!
THUNDER GOD! I BID THEE WAKE!
WHAT SINISTER SORCERY HAST THOU NOW PERFORMED?
A TRIFLING MATTER, REALLY!
I HAVE EXCHANGED.. OUR FACES!

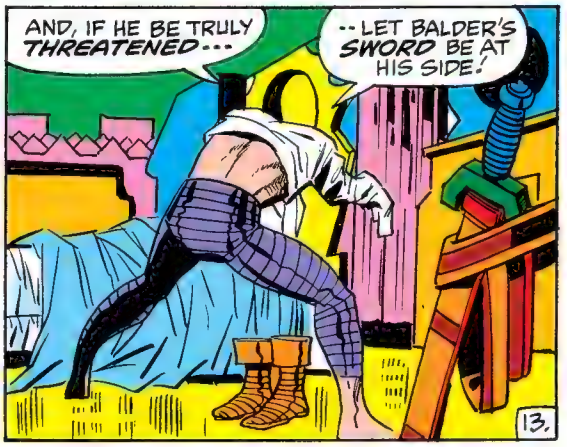
NOW THOU ART LOKI-- AND LOKI THOR!
OR SO THE WORLD SHALL THINK!
I SAY THEE NEVER!
MY HAMMER! I CAN LIFT IT NO LONGER!
WELL DOTH LOKI KNOW!
FOR, WITH THY FEATURES, ALSO HAVE I OBTAINED-- THY POWER!
NOT ONLY THE EVIL--
BUT NOW THE STRENGTH AS WELL IS MINE!
THUS, ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO TRANSFER CLOTHES WITH THEE!
AND EVIL LOKI NOW BECOMES--- IN FACT AS WELL AS FANCY-- MIGHTY THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER!


MEANWHILE, IN FAR DISTANT ASGARD, THE AILING BALDER FINALLY REGAINS HIS NOBLE STRENGTH---
'TWAS THE OMNIPOTENT HAND OF LORDLY ODIN THAT DIDST BRING THEE HEALING!
AND WELL HATH BALDER MERITED SUCH REWARD!
'TIS THOU WHO FETCHED OUR SOVEREIGN FROM THE DISTANT SLEEP OF DEATH!*
AYE! E'ER SHALL MINSTRELS SING OF BALDER'S ENDLESS GLORY!
I PRAY THAT THEY SOON LEAVE-- FOR I HAVE A TASK TO DO!
*STILL ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE SEEMINGLY UNFORGETTABLE THOR #177! --SANCTIMONIOUS STAN.
12

GOOD LORDS, DEPART, I PRITHEE! FOR I AM WEARY, AND WOULD FAIN REST!

WE RESPECT THY WISHES, NOBLE ONE!
HAIL TO THEE, BRAVE BALDER!
NOW, BY THY LEAVE, WE GO!

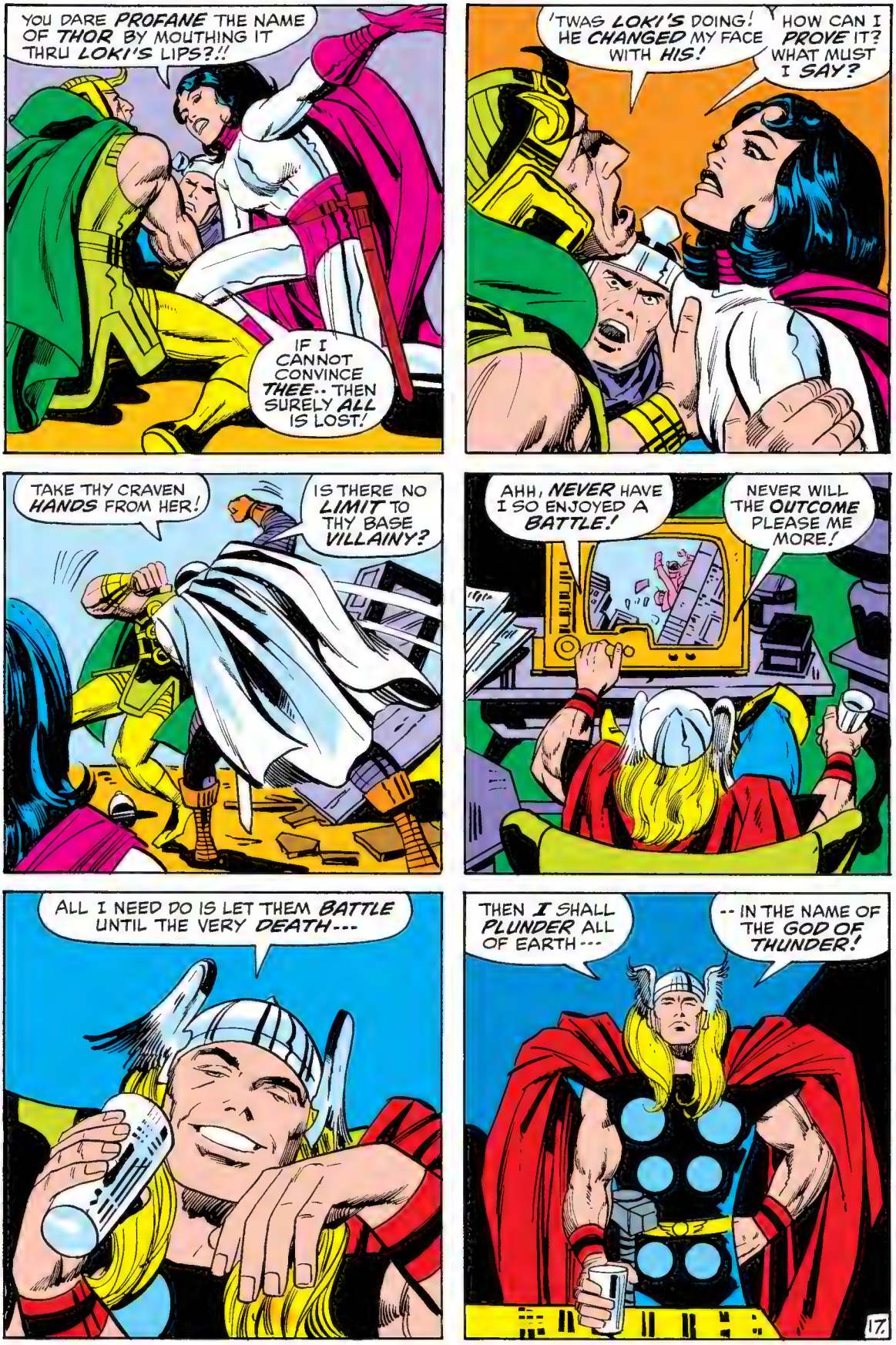

AT LAST! I AM ALONE!
NOW CAN I FOLLOW THE URGINGS OF MY SORELY TROUBLED HEART--
FOR I SENSE THAT DANGER STALKS THE THUNDER GOD--

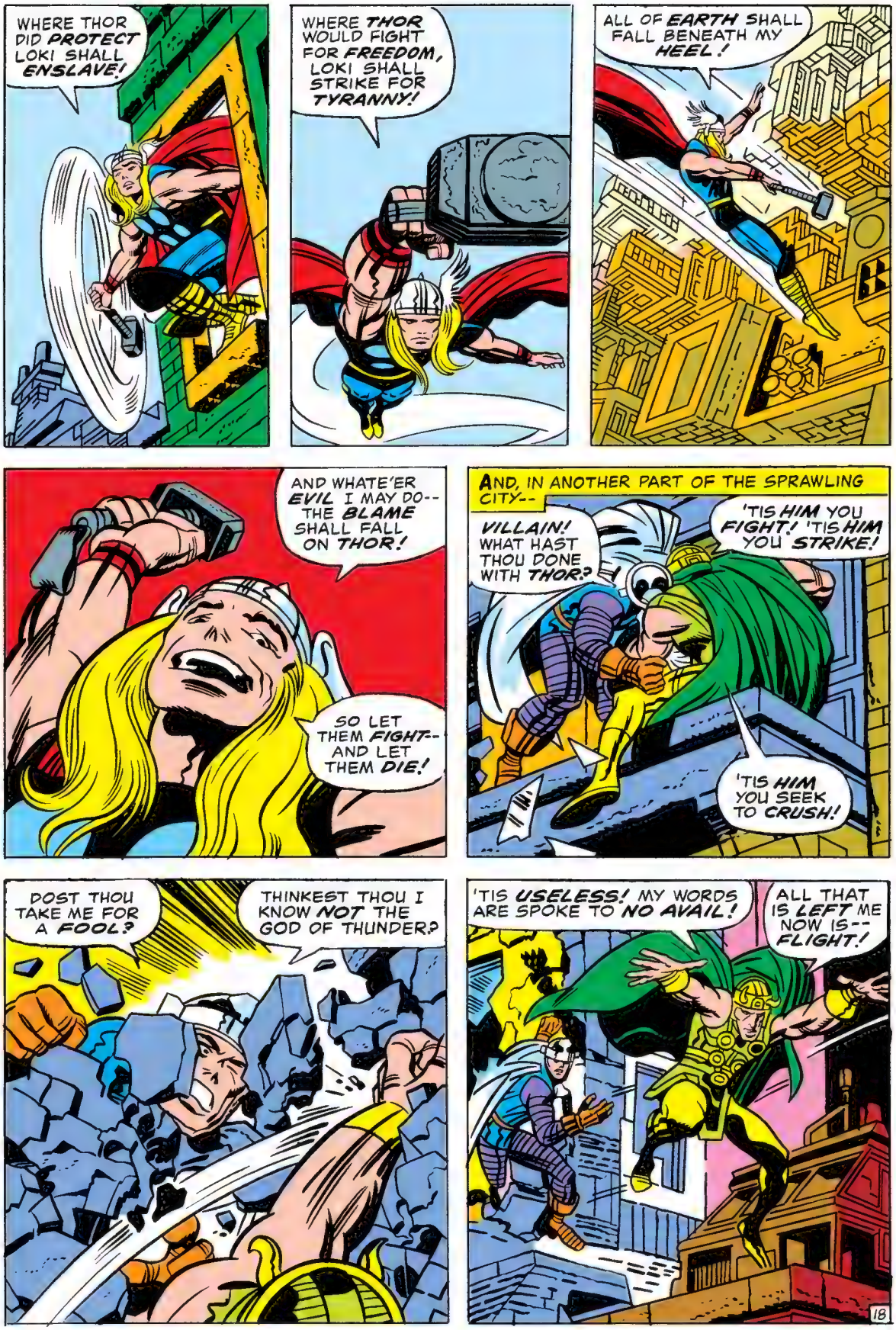

AND, IF HE BE TRULY THREATENED---
--LET BALDER'S SWORD BE AT HIS SIDE!
13.

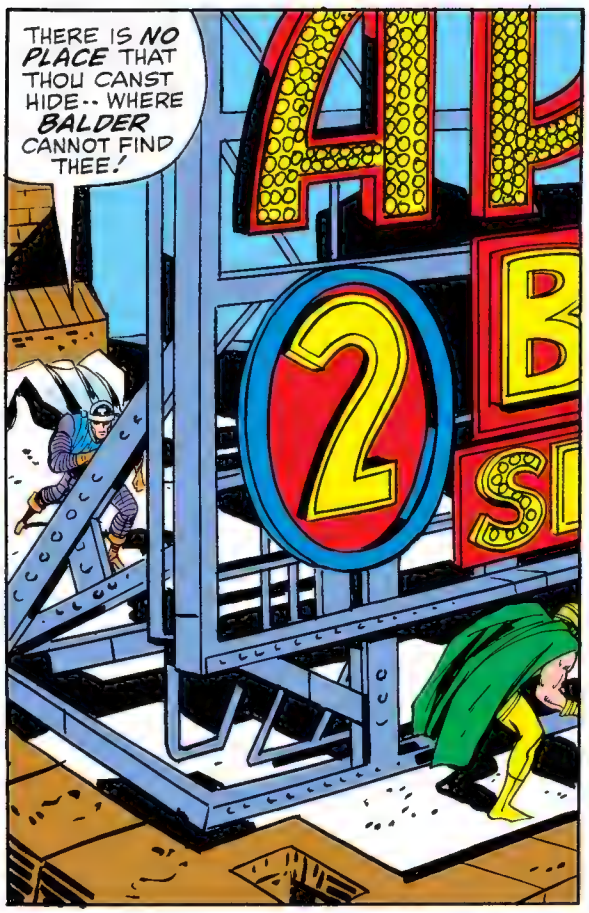
BALDER! THOU ART AFOOT! BUT STILL SHOULDST THOU BE RESTING!
NOT SO, MY LADY! I FLY TO SERVE MY PRINCE!
THEN, YOU TOO FEEL THAT MIGHTY THOR HATH NEED OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM BEST?
AY, FAIR SIF! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THOU WOULDST SENSE IT TOO!
WHATE'ER THE NEED, THE SON OF ODIN SHALL NOT FIND US WANTING!
HE HATH BEEN SENT TO PLANET EARTH IN SEARCH OF EVIL LOKI!
BUT HOLD, MY LORD! DARE WE LEAVE WITHOUT THE ROYAL COMMAND?
WHAT? WOULDST THOU STAY-- IF THOR MAY BE IN DANGER?
THOU KNOWEST WELL MY ANSWER!
WE LEAVE TOGETHER-- TO SERVE THE GOD OF THUNDER!
WHATE'ER BEFALLS, WE TWO SHALL STAND AS ONE!
FOR HIM WHO HATH NEVER FAILED TO STAND FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE!
14

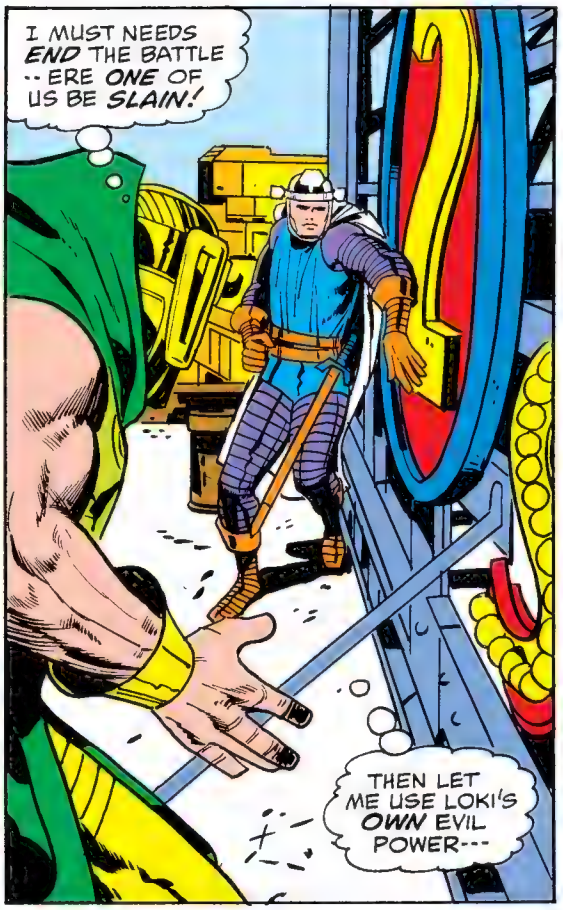
BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT---
I WAKE-- AS FROM A SAVAGE DREAM!
BUT, ALL SEEMS DIFFERENT-- ALL SEEMS STRANGE!
AND THERE BEFORE ME-- IN THE MIRROR---
--WHOSE GRIM VISAGE DO I SEE?
THE FACE--- THE CLOTHES-- CANNOT BELONG TO THOR!
NO DREAM IS THIS--- BUT AWESOME FACT! TO ALL THE WORLD, I BE THE EVIL LOKI!
WHAT NOW? DOTH HE RETURN --- TO GLOAT IN TRIUMPH?
NO! 'TIS BALDER-- AND MY LADY SIF!
THEN STILL DOTH HOPE REMAIN!
PRINCE OF EVIL, STAND THEE BACK! WHAT HAST THOU DONE WITH THOR?
HE HATH A LOOK OF MADNESS 'PON HIS FACE!
HEAR ME, BALDER! SHEATH THY SWORD!
15

WE'LL NOT BE SWAYED BY THY CUNNING WILES!
NOW SPEAK-- OR FACE MY BLADE!
DOST THOU NOT KNOW ME? 'TIS I, THE GOD OF THUNDER!
I AM VICTIM OF LOKI'S MAD BEWITCHMENT!
I'LL HEAR NO MORE!
WHERE HAST THOU HIDDEN THOR?
ART THOU NOW BEREFT OF REASON?
IF MY WORDS CANNOT SWAY THEE--
MAYHAP MY POWER WILL!
I BE THOR, THE SON OF ODIN!
PRINCE OF THE BLOOD-- AND THUNDER GOD!
HE'S MAD! WE MUST TAKE NO FURTHER CHANCES!
MY LADY SIF! NOT YOU! NOT YOU!
16


YOU DARE PROFANE THE NAME OF THOR BY MOUTHING IT THRU LOKI'S LIPS?!!
IF I CANNOT CONVINCE THEE.. THEN SURELY ALL IS LOST!
'TWAS LOKI'S DOING! HE CHANGED MY FACE WITH HIS!
HOW CAN I PROVE IT? WHAT MUST I SAY?
TAKE THY CRAVEN HANDS FROM HER!
IS THERE NO LIMIT TO THY BASE VILLAINY?
AHH, NEVER HAVE I SO ENJOYED A BATTLE!
NEVER WILL THE OUTCOME PLEASE ME MORE!
ALL I NEED DO IS LET THEM BATTLE UNTIL THE VERY DEATH---
THEN I SHALL PLUNDER ALL OF EARTH---
-- IN THE NAME OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!

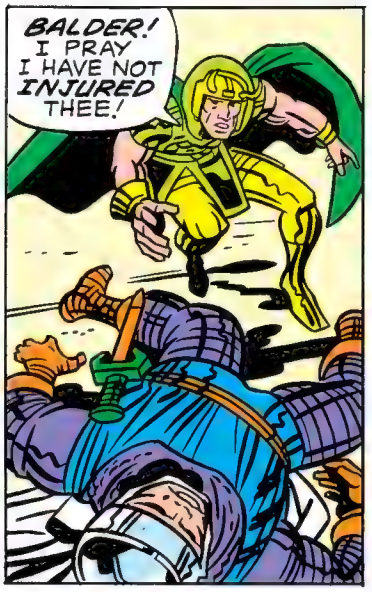

WHERE THOR DID PROTECT LOKI SHALL ENSLAVE!
WHERE THOR WOULD FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, LOKI SHALL STRIKE FOR TYRANNY!
ALL OF EARTH SHALL FALL BENEATH MY HEEL!
AND WHATE'ER EVIL I MAY DO-- THE BLAME SHALL FALL ON THOR!
SO LET THEM FIGHT-- AND LET THEM DIE!
AND, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING CITY--
VILLAIN! WHAT HAST THOU DONE WITH THOR?
'TIS HIM YOU FIGHT! 'TIS HIM YOU STRIKE!
'TIS HIM YOU SEEK TO CRUSH!
DOST THOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?
THINKEST THOU I KNOW NOT THE GOD OF THUNDER?
'TIS USELESS! MY WORDS ARE SPOKE TO NO AVAIL!
ALL THAT IS LEFT ME NOW IS-- FLIGHT!


THERE IS NO PLACE THAT THOU CANST HIDE-- WHERE BALDER CANNOT FIND THEE!


I MUST NEEDS END THE BATTLE -- ERE ONE OF US BE SLAIN!
THEN LET ME USE LOKI'S OWN EVIL POWER---

-- TO DRAIN VOLTAGE FROM YON ELECTRIC SIGN---
ENOW TO STUN THE PURSUING BALDER!

TOO MUCH! THE POWER BEING NEW TO ME-- I COULD NOT CONTROL IT WELL!


BALDER! I PRAY I HAVE NOT INJURED THEE!

HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED-- BUT A SHORT TIME AGO--
AND NOW, I CAUSE HIM THIS!

THOUGH WEAK AND WEARY-- HE DID COME TO EARTH-- TO AID THE THUNDER GOD!
BUT NOW LIES HE UNMOVING!

PERFIDIOUS LOKI!! BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD, THIS DO I SWEAR--
THOU SHALT PAY IN KIND FOR THIS DREAD DAY!

BALDER HATH FALLEN!
AND 'TWAS BY MY HAND! O WOE! O MATCHLESS WOE!

BUT SEE! HE DOTH RECOVER!
I LIVE! HE DID NOT SLAY ME!

LOKI WOULD HAVE SLAIN-- THEN FLED!
MAYHAP-- 'TWAS MORE THAN MADNESS IN THY WORDS!
MAYHAP THE TIME HAS COME FOR SPEAKING!

ODIN BE PRAISED!
THERE STILL IS HOPE! THERE STILL IS HOPE!
NEXT
WHEN GODS GO MAD!

THOR
15¢
CC
180
SEPT
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHEN GODS GO MAD!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

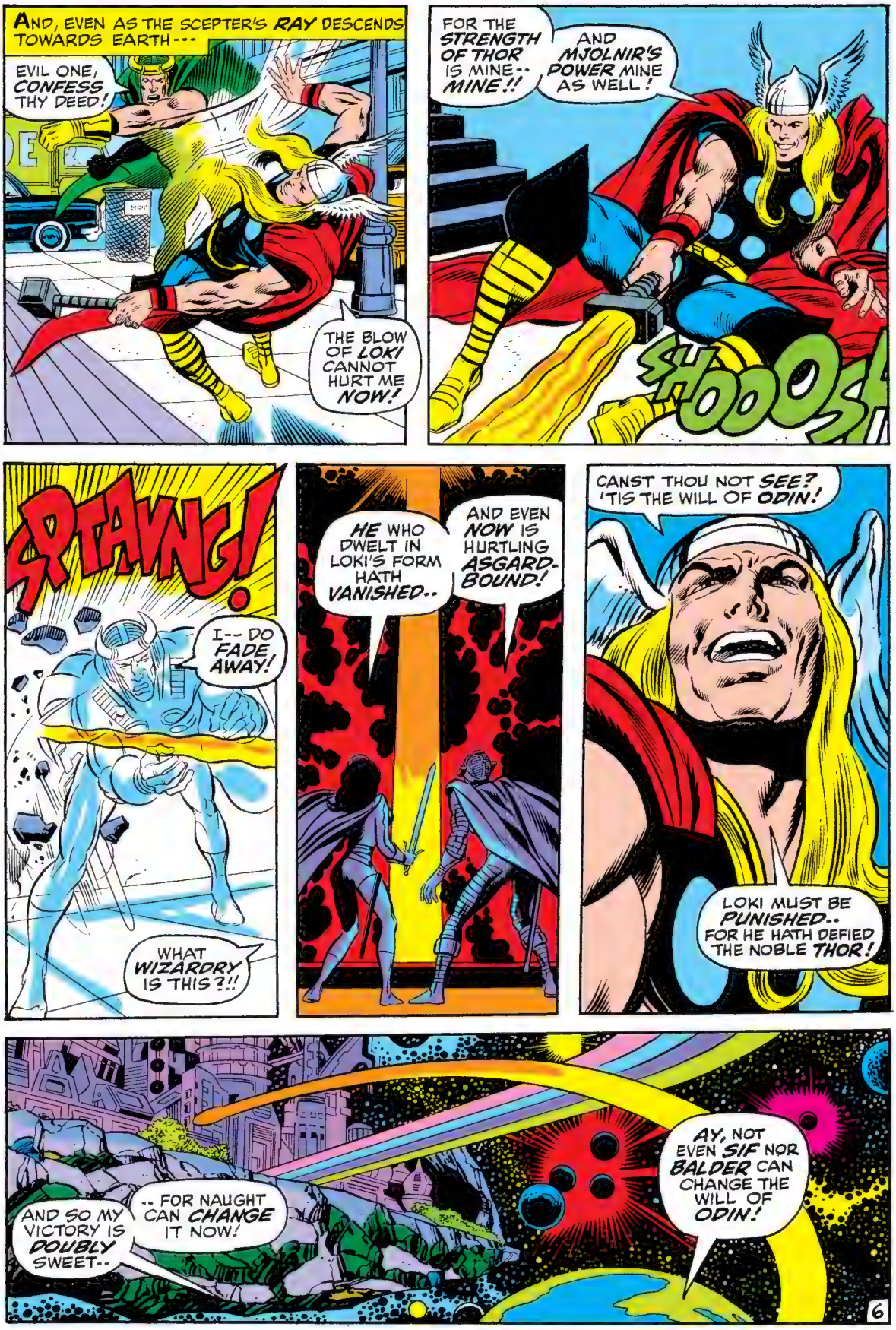
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
WHEN GODS GO MAD!
SCENARIO: STAN LEE
PENCILLING: NEAL ADAMS
JOE SINNOTT INKER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER
THE FOOLS! NONE SUSPECT THAT EVIL LOKI HATH STOLEN THE FORM--AND THE POWERS-- OF THOR!
NOW TO SHOCK THEM AS THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN SHOCKED BEFORE--!
THAT HAMMER! WHAT DOES HE PLAN TO DO WITH IT?
LOOK, DAD! IT'S THOR-- THE GOD OF THUNDER!
376-Z

THEN, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...
LOOK!
ZRAKK!
HE HURLED HIS HAMMER-- RIGHT THRU THE TRUCK!
THE THUNDER GOD'S GONE MAD!
THE HAMMER'S SWINGING AROUND-- ABOUT TO RETURN TO HIM!
BUT-- WHO'S HE GONNA TOSS IT AT NEXT?
THE TRUCK'S GONE OUT OF CONTROL!
AND THOR RAN RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT!
POWER SUCH AS MINE HAS LITTLE MEANING--
-- UNLESS IT CAN BE BRAZENLY FLAUNTED--
RRRRRR
--LIKE THIS!
SKRONK!
HOW GRATIFYING TO KNOW--
-- WHATE'ER I MAY DO-- THE BLAME WILL FALL ON THOR!
THERE'S NO STOPPIN' 'IM!
HE'S RUNNIN' AMOK!
2.

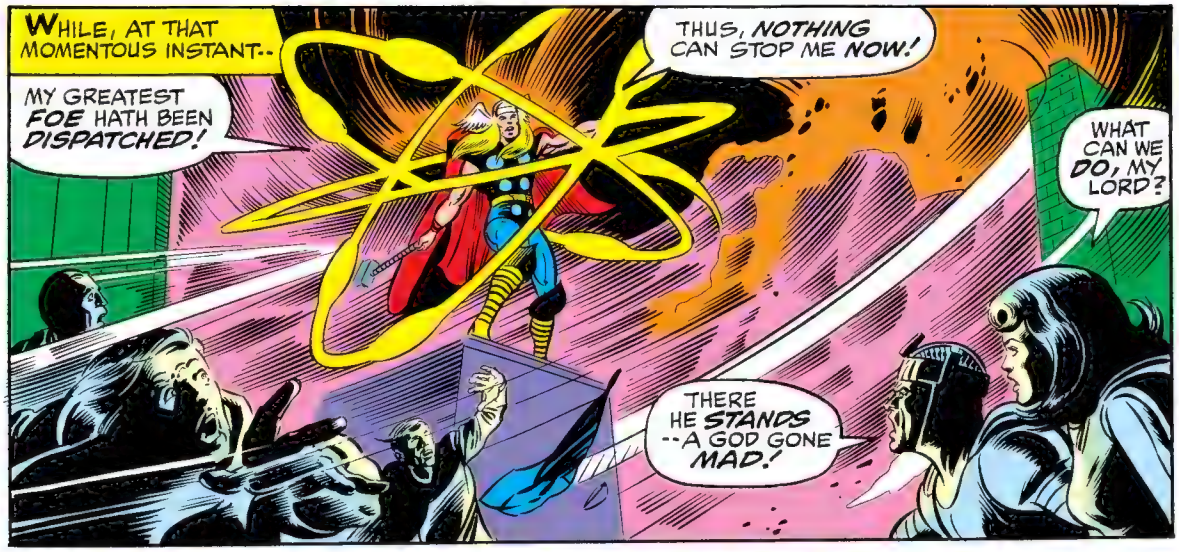
'TIS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME ERE ODIN LEARNS OF WHAT I DO--
AND THAT IS THE MOMENT I SEEK!
FOR, HE WILL THINK LOKI HATH CAUSED THE FRAY--
AND HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT THOR IS NOW IN LOKI'S BODY--
THUS MY ACCURSED BROTHER SHALL FACE THE WRATH OF--- UNHH!
KRAKOOM!
THIS TIME THOU SHALT NOT ESCAPE ME!
VILLAIN! ADMIT WHAT THOU HAST DONE--
LOKI, STAND THEE BACK! BACK BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THOR!
NAY! 'TIS THOU WHO ART EVIL LOKI!
SEE THE DAMAGE IN THE STREET BELOW!
NE'ER WOULD NOBLE THOR COMMIT SUCH CARNAGE!
THEN HE BE, THOR-- IN LOKI'S FORM!
3

WHILE, AT THE OTHER END OF THE ROLLING UNIVERSE, THE LORD OF ASGARD GIVES VENT TO HIS AWESOME, EVER-MOUNTING RAGE---
WHAT? SAYEST THOU LOKI HATH BEEN FOUND?
THEN WHY HATH THOR NOT BROUGHT HIM FORTH?
THEY ARE LOCKED IN SAVAGE BATTLE, SIRE---
UPON THE DISTANT PLANET EARTH!
I HAVE HEARD ENOW! WITH MINE OWN EYES LET ME NOW BEAR WITNESS!
4

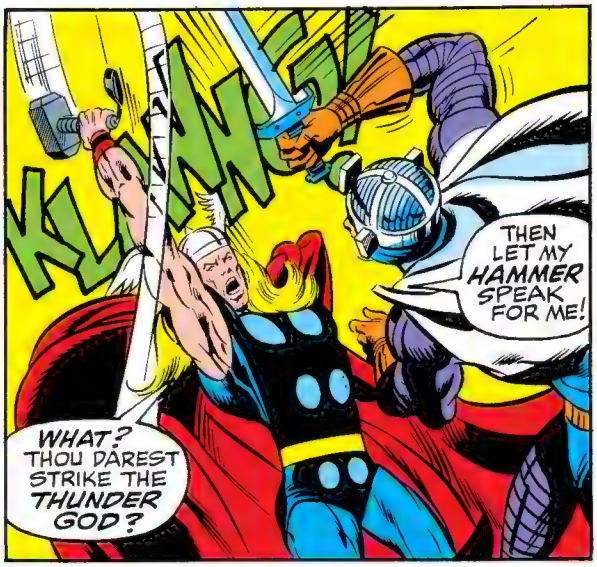
THE ENCHANTI-SPHERE AWAITS THEE, SIRE!
THERE SHALT THOU OBSERVE WHAT DOTH BEFALL UPON THE PLANET EARTH!
'TIS TRUE! 'TIS TRUE!
LOKI DOTH RESIST THE WILL OF THOR!
BUT, BY THE MATCH-LESS POWER OF MINE ODIN-SCEPTER---
HE SHALL RESIST NO LONGER!
5.


AND, EVEN AS THE SCEPTER'S RAY DESCENDS TOWARDS EARTH---
EVIL ONE, CONFESS THY DEED!
THE BLOW OF LOKI CANNOT HURT ME NOW!
FOR THE STRENGTH OF THOR IS MINE-- MINE!!
AND MJOLNIR'S POWER MINE AS WELL!
SHOOOSH
SPTAVNG!
I-- DO FADE AWAY!
WHAT WIZARDRY IS THIS?!!
HE WHO DWELT IN LOKI'S FORM HATH VANISHED--
AND EVEN NOW IS HURTLING ASGARD-BOUND!
CANST THOU NOT SEE? 'TIS THE WILL OF ODIN!
LOKI MUST BE PUNISHED-- FOR HE HATH DEFIED THE NOBLE THOR!
AND SO MY VICTORY IS DOUBLY SWEET--
-- FOR NAUGHT CAN CHANGE IT NOW!
AY, NOT EVEN SIF NOR BALDER CAN CHANGE THE WILL OF ODIN!
6

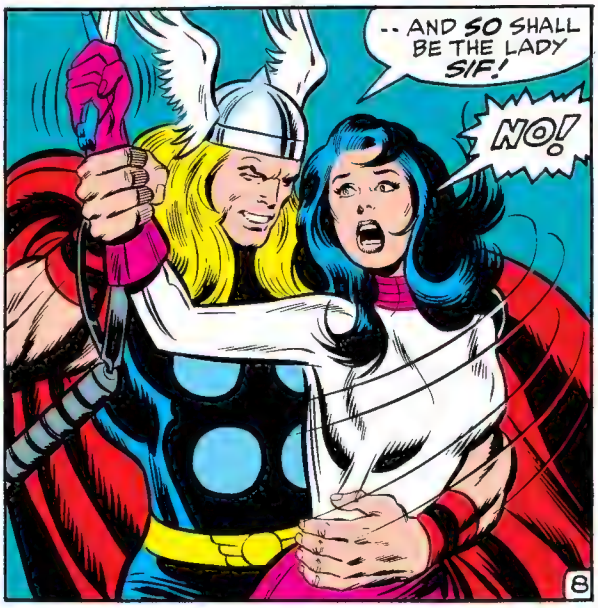
THOU ART CONDEMNED, O EVIL ONE, FOR PERFIDY BEYOND COMPARE!
MY LORD, I SAY THEE NAY!
DO BUT HEAR ME, SIRE!
THOP!
DECEITFUL ONE! THOU SHALT TWIST THE TRUTH NO MORE!
THOUGH I BE FORCED TO CALL THEE SON--
THOU HAST TURNED THE LOVE IN A FATHER'S HEART TO COLD, UNFEELING STONE!
AND NOW-- FOR ALL THY DEEDS-- FOR ALL THY SINS--
I SENTENCE THEE TO---
HADES!


WHILE, AT THAT MOMENTOUS INSTANT--
MY GREATEST FOE HATH BEEN DISPATCHED!
THUS, NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
WHAT CAN WE DO, MY LORD?
THERE HE STANDS --A GOD GONE MAD!

WE FIGHT--
-- IN THE NAME OF ASGARD!

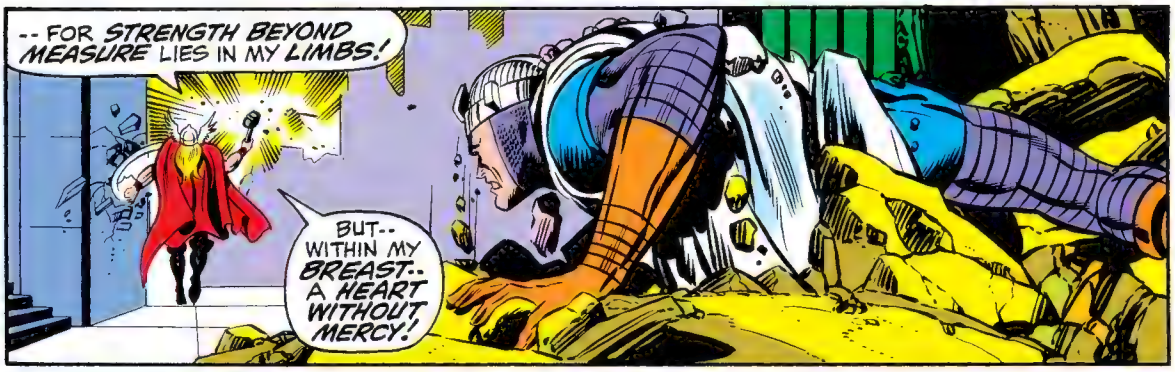

KLANG!
THEN LET MY HAMMER SPEAK FOR ME!
WHAT? THOU DAREST STRIKE THE THUNDER GOD?

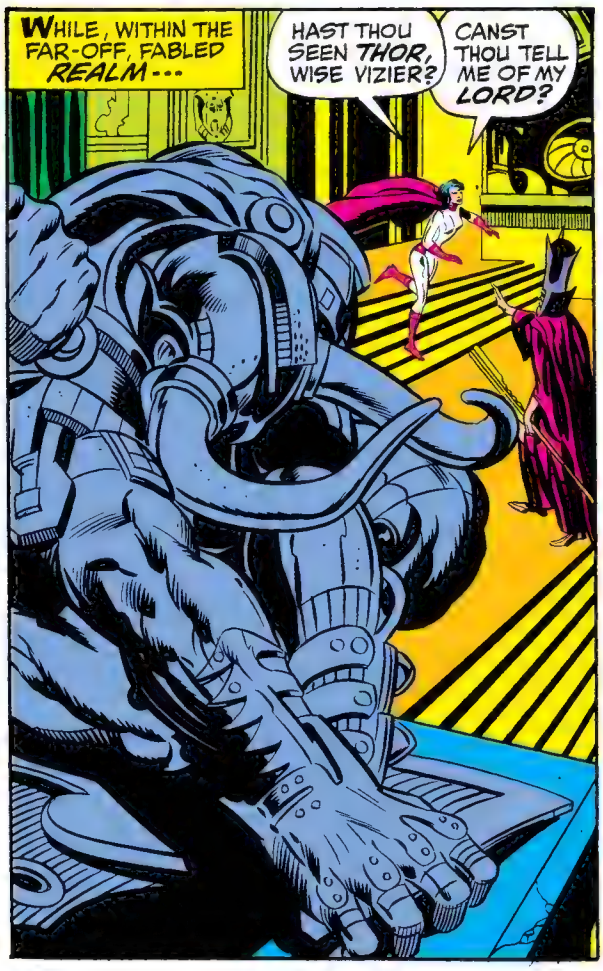
THOU ART NOT THOR-- WE KNOW IT NOW!
IT MATTERS NOT--
-- FOR HIS FORM AND STRENGTH ARE MINE!


-- AND SO SHALL BE THE LADY SIF!
NO!
8

REMEMBER-- THOU ART PLEDGED TO THOR!
AND WHO SHALL SAY I BE NOT HE?
I SHALL SAY---
TILL MY DYING BREATH!
BUT WHO WOULD BELIEVE A--WAIT!!
THE LADY SIF-- HATH VANISHED!
'TIS THE DOING OF BALDER!
NOW TAKES SHE FORM!
AS SHE SOARS TOWARDS-- ASGARD!
BUT-- HOW?
'TWAS I WHO SENT HER THENCE---
THRU THE POWER OF MINE ODIN-BLESSED BLADE!
AND NOW THINE EVIL CANNOT TOUCH HER!
WARRIOR BEGONE!
THE AURA OF THY GOODNESS DOTH MAKE THE SOUL WITHIN ME CRINGE!
THRSM
9.

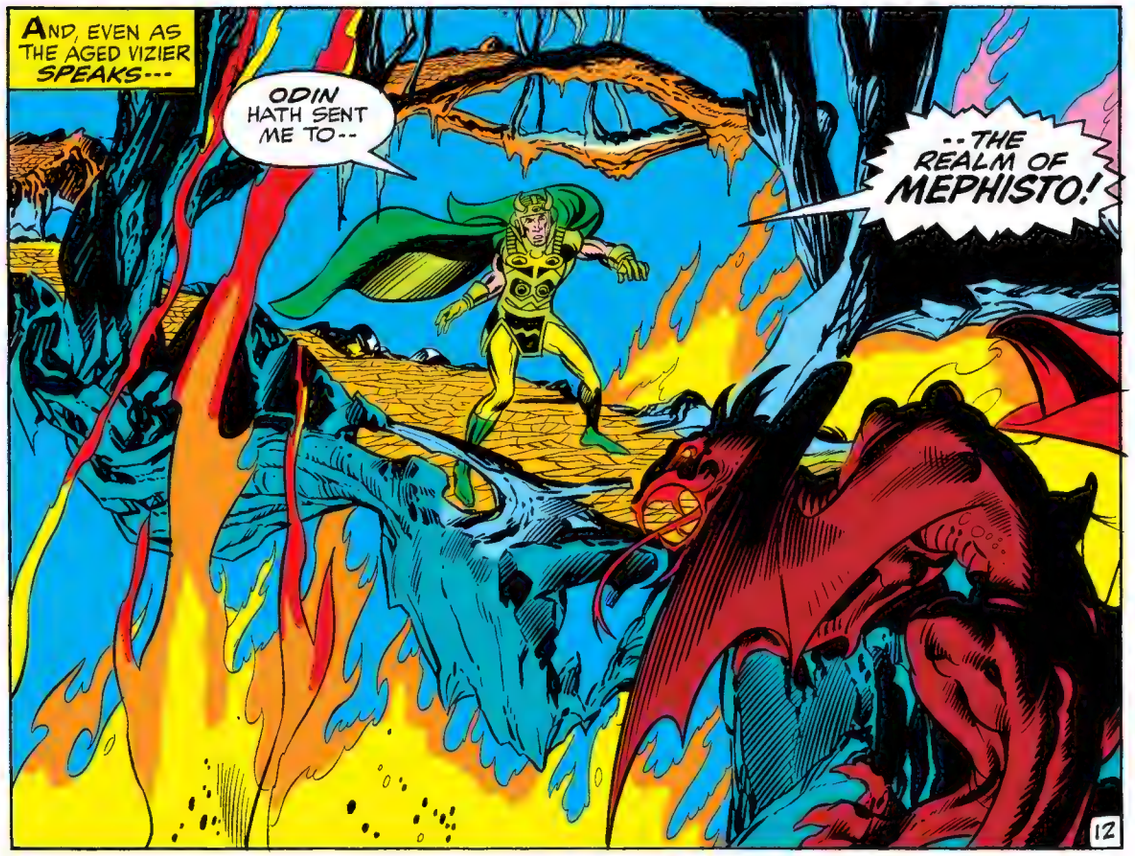
NOW MORE THAN E'ER--
I BE TRULY THOR!

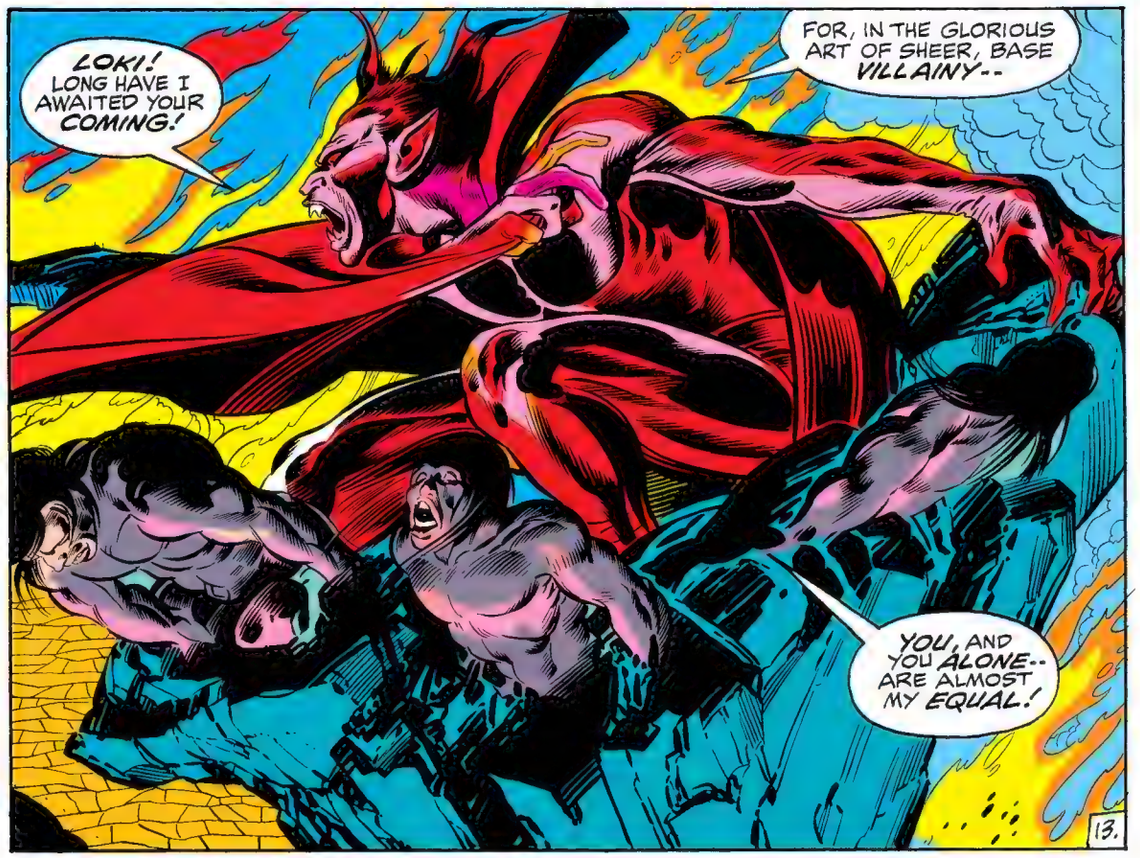

-- FOR STRENGTH BEYOND MEASURE LIES IN MY LIMBS!
BUT-- WITHIN MY BREAST-- A HEART WITHOUT MERCY!


WHILE, WITHIN THE FAR-OFF, FABLED REALM---
HAST THOU SEEN THOR, WISE VIZIER?
CANST THOU TELL ME OF MY LORD?

ALAS! I HAVE SEEN NONE BUT LOKI!
BUT HAVE NO FEAR, MY LADY! THE REGAL ODIN HATH SENT HIM TO A PLACE-- FROM WHICH THERE BE NO ESCAPE!
STAND THEE ASIDE! I MUST SEE REGAL ODIN!
OH NO, MY LORD-- THOU KNOW NOT WHAT THOU SAYEST!

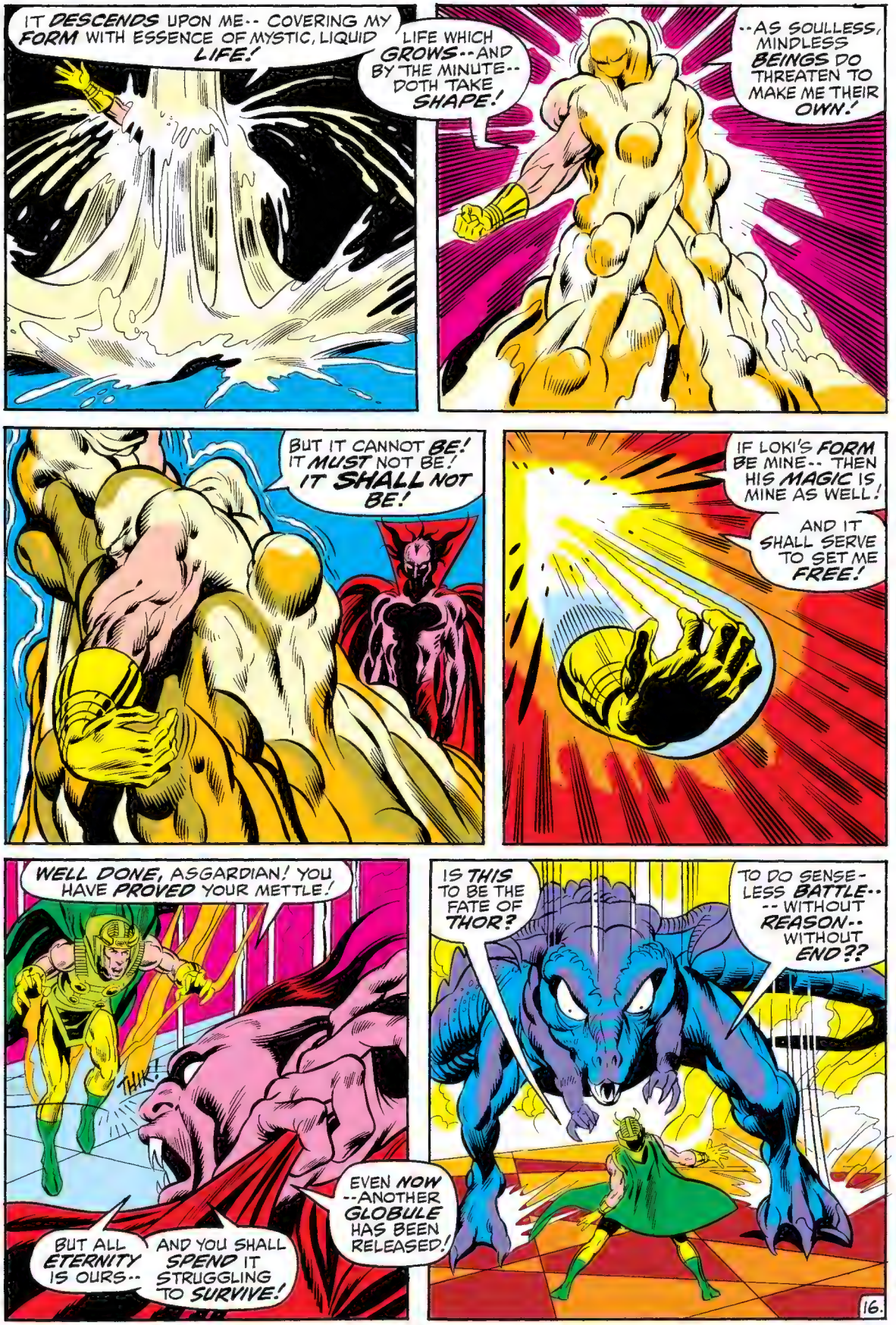
I BID THEE HOLD, MY LADY!
'TIS THE ALL-FATHER'S TIME FOR BROODING..
AS THOU KNOWEST WELL-- WHEN HE THINKS HIS GODLY THOUGHTS--
NONE MAY DARE INTRUDE!
THOUGH I WEAR THE CROWN SUPREME-- I MUST BE EVER VIGILANT!
-- FOR THERE BE DANGER EVERYWHERE -- AND EVER THOSE WHO WAIT TO STRIKE!
WHILE HE WHO IS ALL IS LOST IN CONTEMP-LATION--
--LET THINE EYES BEHOLD THE ROYAL COSMI-SCREEN--
FOR THERE SHALT THOU WITNESS THE THE FATE OF HIM WHO IS SON OF ODIN!
I SAY THEE NO-- IT CANNOT BE!!
NOT THERE, MY LORD-- NOT THERE!!
I URGE THEE, LADY-- HOLD THY TONGUE!
THE DEED IS DONE-- AND MORE THAN DONE---
FOR, 'TIS THE WILL OF ODIN!
11.


AND, EVEN AS THE AGED VIZIER SPEAKS---
ODIN HATH SENT ME TO--
--THE REALM OF MEPHISTO!
12

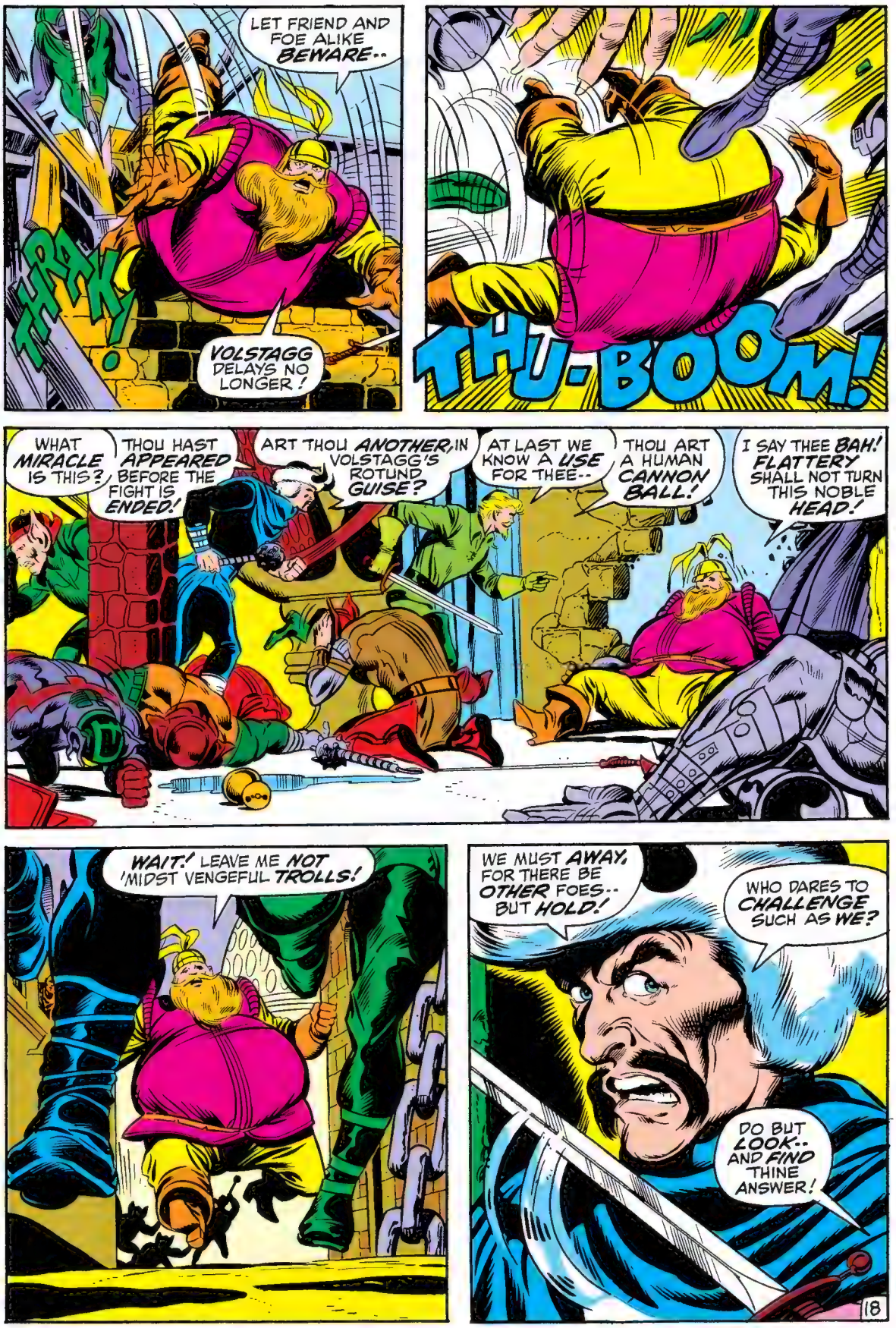

LOKI! LONG HAVE I AWAITED YOUR COMING!
FOR, IN THE GLORIOUS ART OF SHEER, BASE VILLAINY--
YOU, AND YOU ALONE-- ARE ALMOST MY EQUAL!
13.

APPROACH ME, ASGARDIAN!
AN ETERNITY OF SIN NOW BECKONS US BOTH!
PLACE NOT THY HAND UPON ME!
NE'ER WILL I SERVE THE LIKES OF THEE!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?!!
THE MERE TOUCH OF YOU-- CAUSES ME PAIN!
PAIN-- SUCH AS ONLY THE POWER OF GOOD CAN INFLICT--
--UPON ONE WHO IS MONARCH OF EVIL!
THOUGH YOUR VISAGE IS LOKI'S-- YOUR SOUL IS ANOTHER'S!
THUS DO I PEER BENEATH YOUR SKIN'S SURFACE--
THUS DO I SEE WHO DOES TRULY CONFRONT ME!
KNOW THEE THAT I BE THOR, GOD OF THUNDER BORN!
I SWEAR BY THE NAME I BEAR-- THOU SHALT NOT KEEP ME HERE!
14

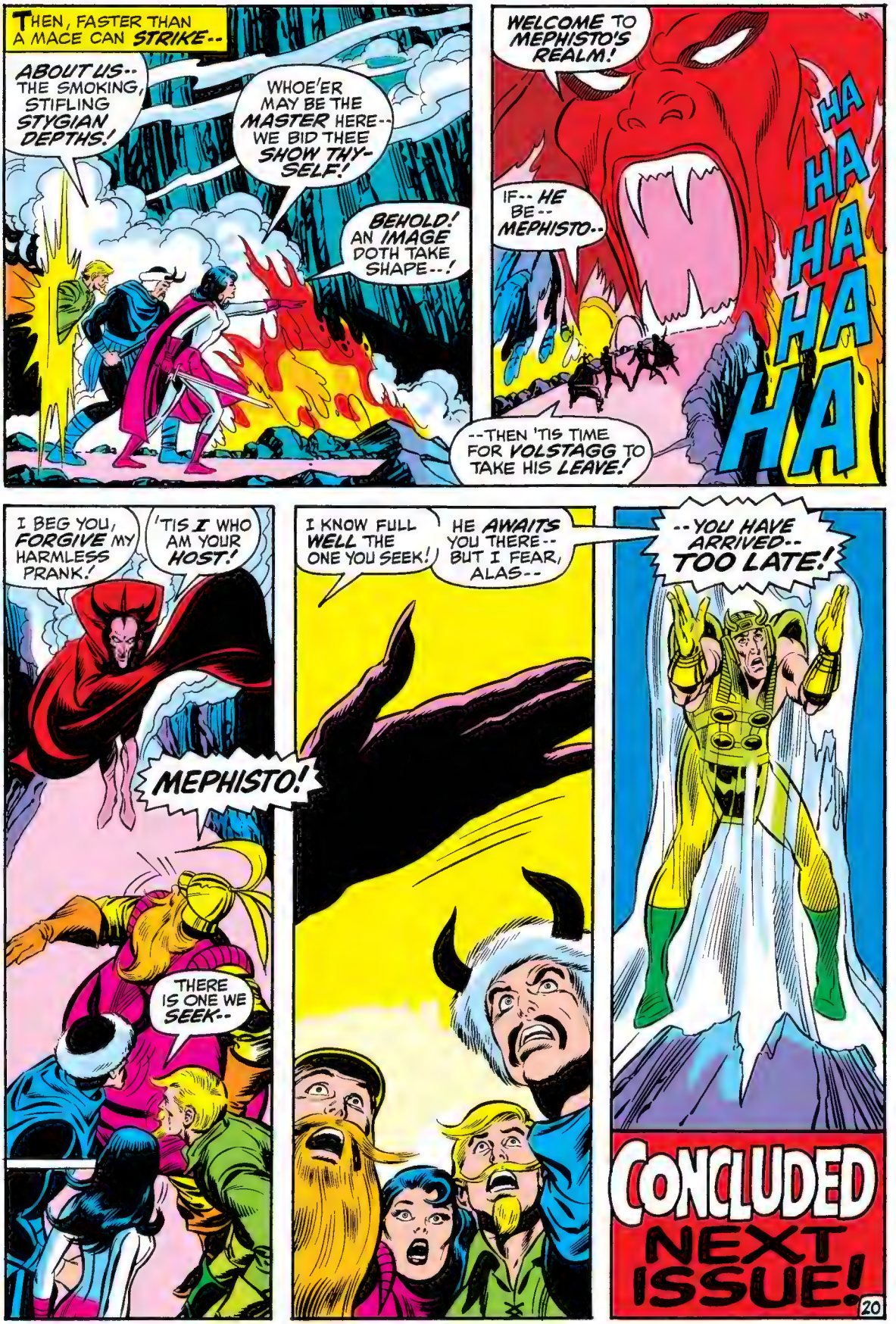
I KNOW NOT THE WHY OR WHEREFORE OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED---
BUT THIS I TELL YOU TRUE--
WITHIN THIS REALM MEPHISTO RULES--
AND ALL WHO ENTER-- ARE LOST FOR-EVER!
SEE HOW EFFORTLESSLY I MAKE YOU DISSOLVE---
THAT YOU MAY AGAIN RE-APPEAR-- IN THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT
-- IN MY GARDEN OF THE GLEAMING GLOBULES OF MADNESS!
THIK!
ONE OF THE GLOBULES-- HATH BEEN RELEASED!


IT DESCENDS UPON ME-- COVERING MY FORM WITH ESSENCE OF MYSTIC, LIQUID LIFE!
LIFE WHICH GROWS--AND BY THE MINUTE-- DOTH TAKE SHAPE!
--AS SOULLESS, MINDLESS BEINGS DO THREATEN TO MAKE ME THEIR OWN!
BUT IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE! IT SHALL NOT BE!
IF LOKI'S FORM BE MINE-- THEN HIS MAGIC IS MINE AS WELL!
AND IT SHALL SERVE TO SET ME FREE!
WELL DONE, ASGARDIAN! YOU HAVE PROVED YOUR METTLE!
THIK!
BUT ALL ETERNITY IS OURS--
AND YOU SHALL SPEND IT STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE!
EVEN NOW --ANOTHER GLOBULE HAS BEEN RELEASED!
IS THIS TO BE THE FATE OF THOR?
TO DO SENSE-LESS BATTLE-- -- WITHOUT REASON-- WITHOUT END??
16.

BETTER FOR ME TO PERISH NOW, THAN TO--
NAY! NEVER SHALL THE SON OF ODIN ABANDON HOPE!
WHILST I LIVE.. I FIGHT!
FOR SUCH IS THE CREED OF GOD.. AND MAN!
BUT, EVEN AS THE AWE-SOME NETHER-WORLD MONSTER ENCASES ITS VICTIM WITHIN MYSTIC BEAMS OF BONDAGE, ANOTHER FIGHT ENSUES IN THE RADIANT REALM OF ASGARD.. STEEL AGAINST STEEL-- WARRIOR VERSUS TROLL --- AND DEATH MAY TAKE THE HIND-MOST--!
NE'ER WILL SUCH AS THEE TAKE ODIN'S NAME IN VAIN!
ARROGANT ASGARDIAN! NO HOMAGE PAYS A TROLL!
THEN NO MERCY OFFERS HOGUN!
WHO SPEAKS OF MERCY WHEN SWORD CAN FLASH.. WHEN BLADE CAN SING?
FANDRAL SPEAKS OF HONOR.. AND THE GLORY OF HIS LIEGE!
AND WHITHER VOLSTAGG? WHY JOINS HE NOT THE FRAY?
I HEAR THY CALL, GRIM HOGUN!
AND LIKE THE WIND, I HASTEN TO THY SIDE!
IF IT BE SO--
WHY MOVEST THOU SO SLOW, OBESE ONE?
WITLESS OAF! SOON THOU SHALT MOVE NO MORE!


LET FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE BEWARE..
THRAK!
VOLSTAGG DELAYS NO LONGER!
THU-BOOM!
WHAT MIRACLE IS THIS?
THOU HAST APPEARED BEFORE THE FIGHT IS ENDED!
ART THOU ANOTHER, IN VOLSTAGG'S ROTUND GUISE?
AT LAST WE KNOW A USE FOR THEE--
THOU ART A HUMAN CANNON BALL!
I SAY THEE BAH! FLATTERY SHALL NOT TURN THIS NOBLE HEAD!
WAIT! LEAVE ME NOT 'MIDST VENGEFUL TROLLS!
WE MUST AWAY, FOR THERE BE OTHER FOES.. BUT HOLD!
WHO DARES TO CHALLENGE SUCH AS WE?
DO BUT LOOK.. AND FIND THINE ANSWER!
18

'TIS LADY SIF!
DO BUT SPEAK, MOST BEAUTEOUS ONE! WE ARE THINE TO COMMAND!
THE THUNDER GOD HATH NEED OF THEE!
THEN SAY WE ONWARD, LADY!
MOMENTS LATER--
I HAVE TOLD THE TALE, WISE VIZIER!
NOW DO WE STAND--OR DIE-- FOR THOR!
THEN ODIN HATH ERRED-- AND SENT THY BELOVED DEEP INTO THE NETHER-WORLD!
WHILST LOKI-- IN THE FORM OF THOR-- DOTH THREATEN ALL OF EARTH!
BUT OUR LIEGE STILL BROODS --SO WAIT WE MUST!
WAIT? WHILST EVIL DOTH FLOURISH UN-CHECKED?
WE SAY THEE NAY!
AND SO SAYS SIF!
THOUGH MY VERY SOUL DOTH ACHE TO HAVE AT LOKI-- WE FIRST MUST FREE THE MIGHTY THOR!
WISE VIZIER, SPEAK! HOW DO WE REACH THE NETHER-WORLD?
THERE IS NO ROAD-- THERE IS NO TRAIL---
BUT THERE IS THE POWER OF THE ODIN HELMET--
I HAVE BUT TO WEAR IT-- AND TO WISH--
EVEN AS HE SPEAKS, WE FADE--
19.


THEN, FASTER THAN A MACE CAN STRIKE--
ABOUT US-- THE SMOKING, STIFLING STYGIAN DEPTHS!
WHOE'ER MAY BE THE MASTER HERE-- WE BID THEE SHOW THY-SELF!
BEHOLD! AN IMAGE DOTH TAKE SHAPE--!
WELCOME TO MEPHISTO'S REALM!
IF-- HE BE-- MEPHISTO--
HA HA HA HA HA
--THEN 'TIS TIME FOR VOLSTAGG TO TAKE HIS LEAVE!
I BEG YOU, FORGIVE MY HARMLESS PRANK!
'TIS I WHO AM YOUR HOST!
MEPHISTO!
THERE IS ONE WE SEEK--
I KNOW FULL WELL THE ONE YOU SEEK!
HE AWAITS YOU THERE-- BUT I FEAR, ALAS--
--YOU HAVE ARRIVED-- TOO LATE!
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

THOR
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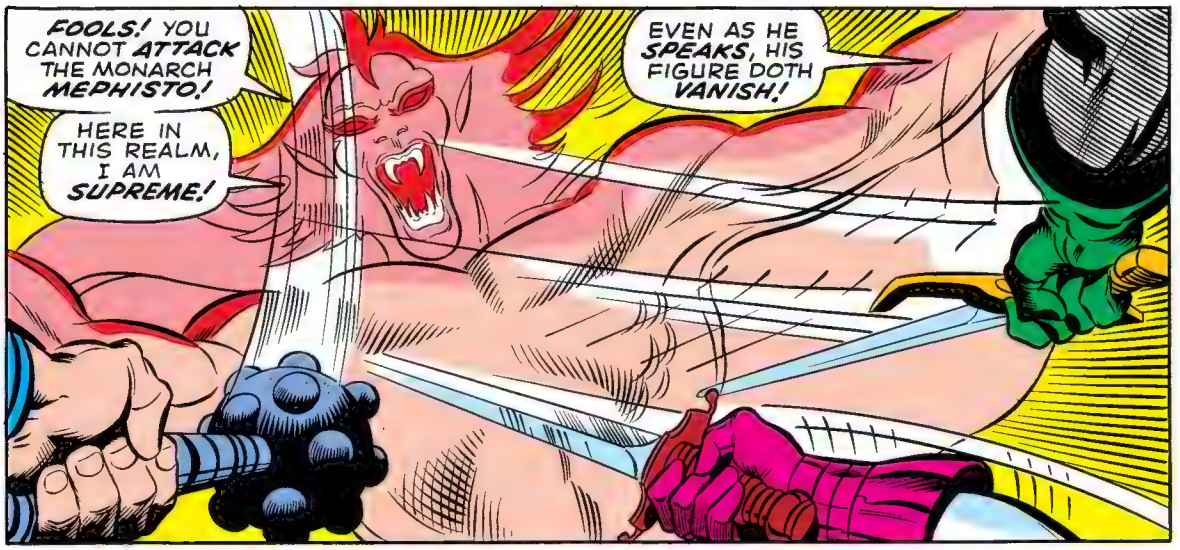
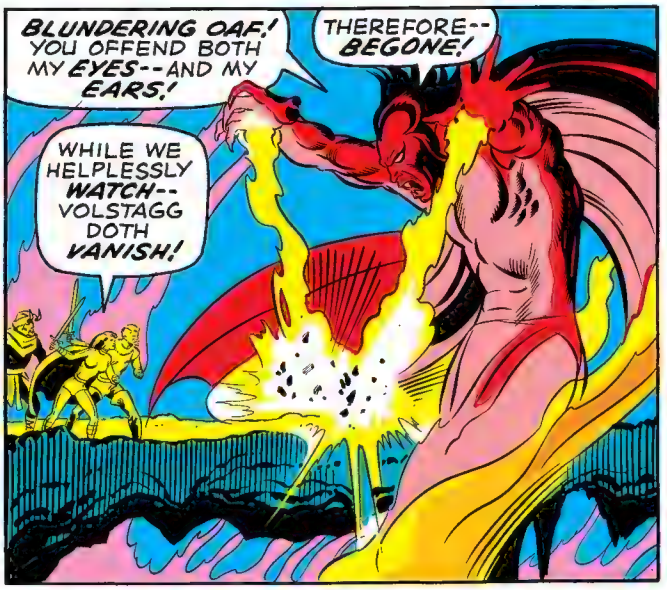
OCT
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
NO ONE CAN STOP ME! I HAVE POWER ENOW TO RULE THE WORLD!
CLEAR THE U.N.! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! IT'S GOD VS. GOD!
YOU'LL NEVER PREVAIL! NOT WHILE ONE ASGARDIAN LIVES!
ONE GOD MUST FALL!

THE MIGHTY THOR!
ONE GOD MUST FALL!
NO, THIS IS NOT EVIL LOKI-- BUT THOR, TRAPPED WITHIN THE GOD OF EVIL'S BODY BY A SINISTER SPELL, AND FROZEN IN THE NETHERWORLD BY MULTI-POWERED MEPHISTO!!
NOW, WHILE LOKI, IN THE GUISE OF THOR, RAVAGES THE PLANET EARTH, THOSE WHO LOVE HIM THE MOST ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THE HAPLESS GOD OF THUNDER--!
FREE HIM, MEPHISTO-- FOR HE IS REALLY THOR!
NEVER! HE IS MINE-- NOW AND FOREVER!
STAN LEE, AUTHOR
NEAL ADAMS, ARTIST
INKING: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK
4102


FOOLS! YOU CANNOT ATTACK THE MONARCH MEPHISTO!
HERE IN THIS REALM, I AM SUPREME!
EVEN AS HE SPEAKS, HIS FIGURE DOTH VANISH!

HE HATH BEEN DRIVEN TO FLIGHT BY FEAR OF VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG!


BLUNDERING OAF! YOU OFFEND BOTH MY EYES--AND MY EARS!
THEREFORE-- BEGONE!
WHILE WE HELPLESSLY WATCH-- VOLSTAGG DOTH VANISH!

WE MUST FIND MEPHISTO-- NO MATTER THE COST!
NOT ALL THE HORRORS OF HELL SHALL DETER US!
'TIS FOR ME THAT THEY THUS RISK THEIR LIVES!

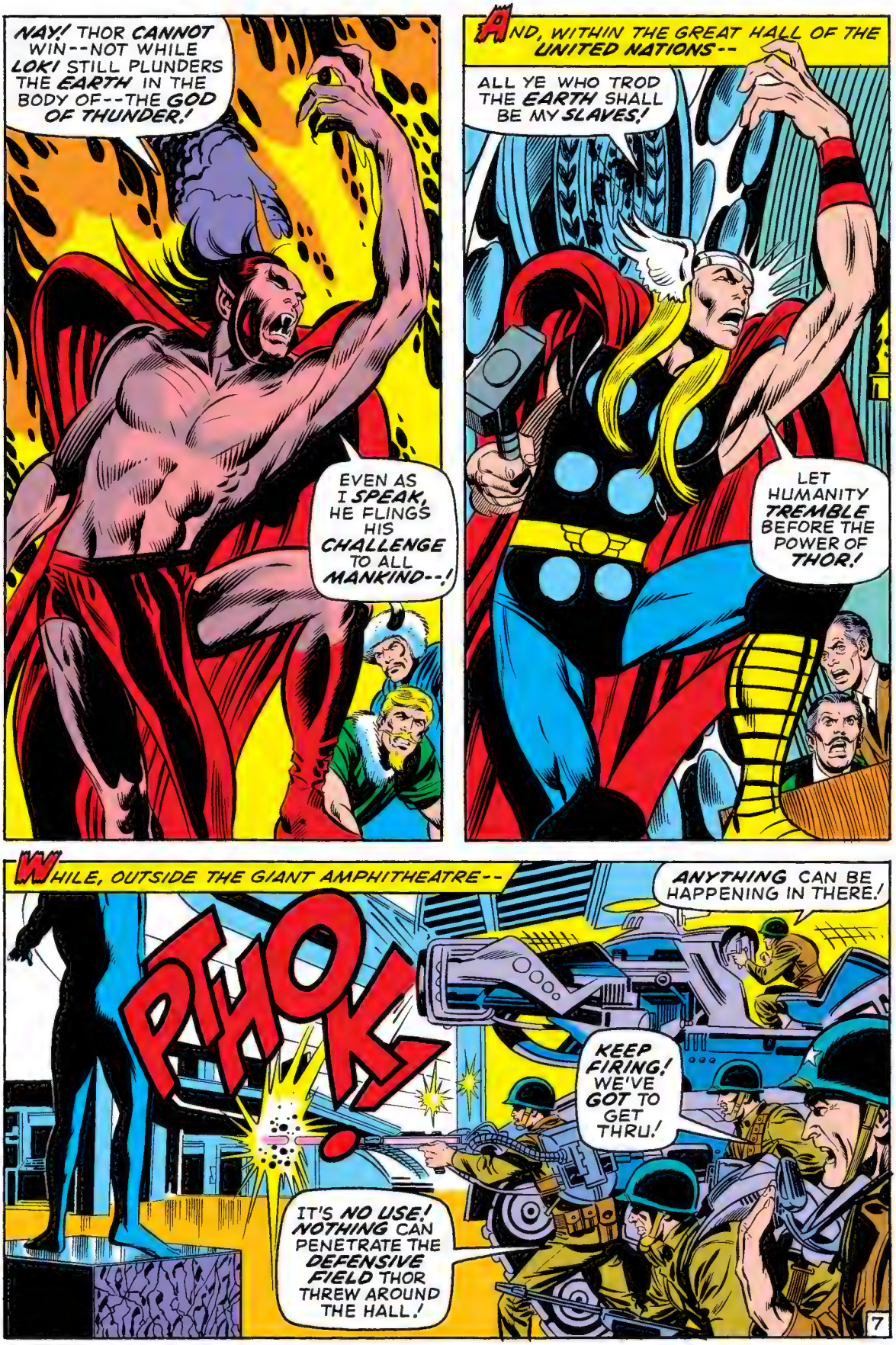
WHILST HERE STANDS THOR-- HELPLESS-- TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF LOKI!

HOW WELL I REMEMBER THE MYSTIC CLAY FROM WITHIN THE EVIL ONE'S CASE--
ERE I COULD MOVE, IT DID COVER MY HEAD--AND THEREBY BEGAN THE ENCHANTMENT!
I BECAME LOKI--AND HE TURNED TO THOR--AND SO IT HATH BEEN EVER SINCE!
NOW STAND I IN HELL-- CONDEMNED TO SUCH FATE BY ODIN HIMSELF--
--WHILST TREASON AND EVIL HAVE TRIUMPHED!
3

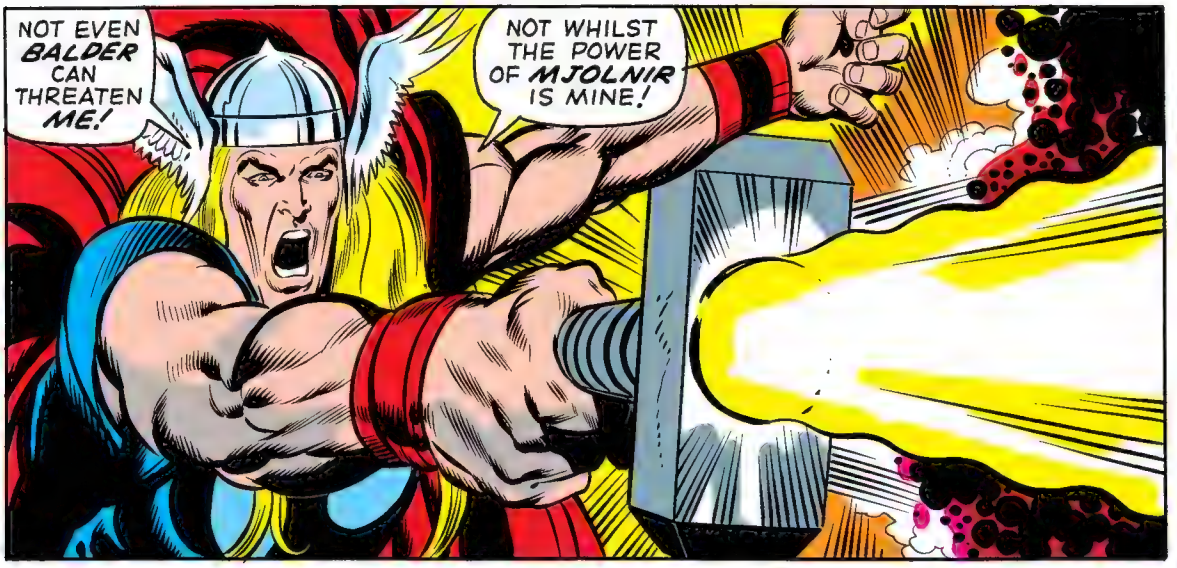
MEANWHILE, THE THUNDER GOD'S WOULD-BE RESCUERS STRIKE OUT IN VAIN--SEARCHING FOR THEIR VANISHED, TAUNTING, DEMONIAC FOE--
HOGUN! 'TIS OF NO AVAIL!
OUR BLOWS ARE USE-LESS!
AY! AND AY AGAIN! WE CANNOT SMASH WHAT WE CANNOT SEE!
UP ABOVE US! LOOK YOU, FANDRAL!
DANCE, ASGARDIANS! LIKE PUPPETS BOUND WITH STRING!
NOW DO YOU SEE HOW HOPELESS IS YOUR CAUSE?
NONE BUT THOR CAN HOPE TO SAVE US!
BUT FIRST HE MUST BE FREED!
THOUGH IT COSTS MY LIFE, I SHALL NOT FAIL MY LOVED ONE!
COURAGE, MY LORD! THE BLADE OF SIF SHALL STRIKE FOR THEE!
THAK!
ZTRK!
4

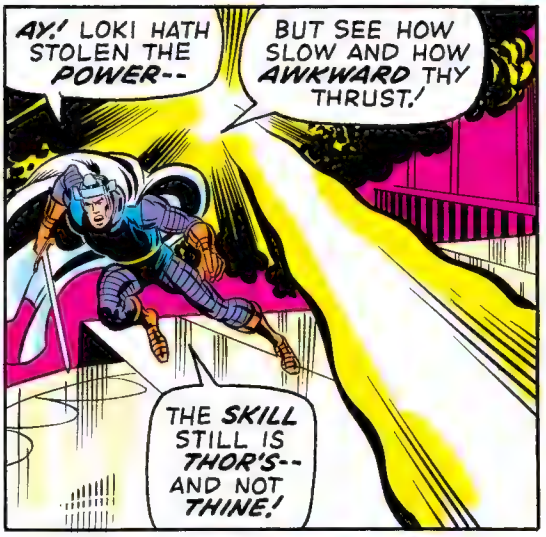
MY LADY'S STEEL CANNOT MATCH HER SPIRIT!
BUT, WITHIN THE MYSTIC MIND OF LOKI--THERE IS ANOTHER WAY!
IN LOKI'S NAME--LET THE BLADE OF SIF BE HURLED AT THE DRAGON WHO LURKS BEYOND!
'TWILL MOST CERTAINLY ENRAGE THE BEAST--
--'TWILL MAKE HIM TURN-- 'TWILL MAKE HIM STRIKE--
AND SO BEGINS THE PLAN!
HE DOTH ATTACK THE HELPLESS THOR--
AND I HAVE NO BLADE TO GIVE HIM PAUSE!
5

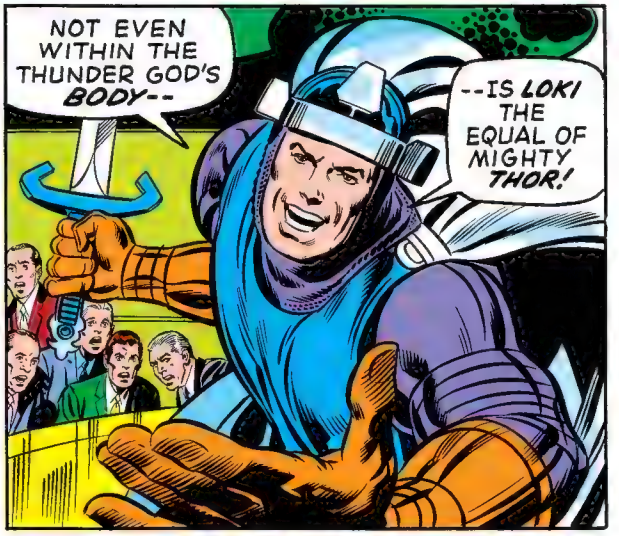
BUT WAIT! HIS FLAME DOTH MELT THE ENCHANTED ICE!
THEN THIS IS WHAT MY LOVE INTENDED!
BOTH ICE-- AND BEAST-- DO SLOWLY VANISH!
SOON SHALL MY LORD BE--
FREE!
YON BLADE IS THINE AGAIN, FAIR SIF!
NE'ER HAST THY VALOR FAILED ME!
BUT STILL THOU ART TRAPPED WITHIN THE FORM OF LOKI!
BUT NOT FOR LONG, MY LADY!
THE GAME PLAYS ON--
--AND ERE IT ENDS, THE VICTOR SHALL BE-- THOR!
6


NAY! THOR CANNOT WIN--NOT WHILE LOKI STILL PLUNDERS THE EARTH IN THE BODY OF--THE GOD OF THUNDER!
EVEN AS I SPEAK, HE FLINGS HIS CHALLENGE TO ALL MANKIND--!
AND, WITHIN THE GREAT HALL OF THE UNITED NATIONS--
ALL YE WHO TROD THE EARTH SHALL BE MY SLAVES!
LET HUMANITY TREMBLE BEFORE THE POWER OF THOR!
WHILE, OUTSIDE THE GIANT AMPHITHEATRE--
PTHOK
ANYTHING CAN BE HAPPENING IN THERE!
KEEP FIRING! WE'VE GOT TO GET THRU!
IT'S NO USE! NOTHING CAN PENETRATE THE DEFENSIVE FIELD THOR THREW AROUND THE HALL!
7

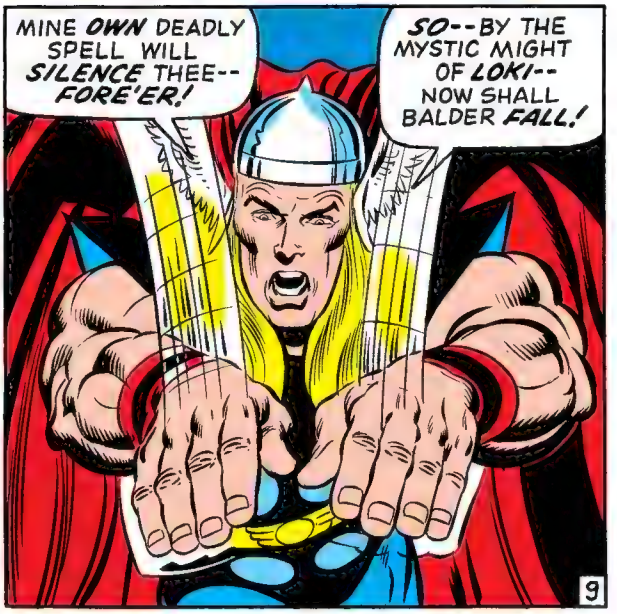
AND, AS WE SEE--THE ARMY'S FEAR IS BASED ON FACT--
THUNDER GOD OR NOT--NOT EVEN YOU CAN IMPOSE YOUR WILL UPON ALL OF EARTH'S SOVEREIGN NATIONS!
SUMMON THE GUARDS! SEIZE HIM! THE MADMAN MUST BE PUNISHED!
WE'LL YIELD TO NO GOD--NO ALIEN--NO ONE!
AUS
THY RAUCUS VOICES ARE LIKE THE BRAYING OF MINDLESS CATTLE!
THE FURY IS THINE --BUT THE POWER --IS MINE!
POWER SUCH AS YE HAVE NEVER KNOWN--
--SUCH AS YE CAN NE'ER IMAGINE!
KROOM!
THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING ARE HIS TO COMMAND!
HE'S UNLEASHING THE SAVAGERY OF THE STORM! IT'S LIKE--THE END OF THE WORLD!
AND NOW I SHALL--
BUT WAIT! WHO CALLS?
'TIS I, IMPOSTER! I, THE ONE THOU DIDST NOT SLAY!
BALDER! I SPARED THEE ONCE!
NOT AGAIN SHALL I BE SO MERCIFUL!
THY WORDS ARE LIES!
THOU DIDST SEEK TO SLAY ME--BUT WERE TOO CARELESS!
AND NOW --BY MY BLADE--THOU SHALT PAY THE PRICE!
8


NOT EVEN BALDER CAN THREATEN ME!
NOT WHILST THE POWER OF MJOLNIR IS MINE!


AY! LOKI HATH STOLEN THE POWER--
BUT SEE HOW SLOW AND HOW AWKWARD THY THRUST!
THE SKILL STILL IS THOR'S-- AND NOT THINE!


NOT EVEN WITHIN THE THUNDER GOD'S BODY--
--IS LOKI THE EQUAL OF MIGHTY THOR!

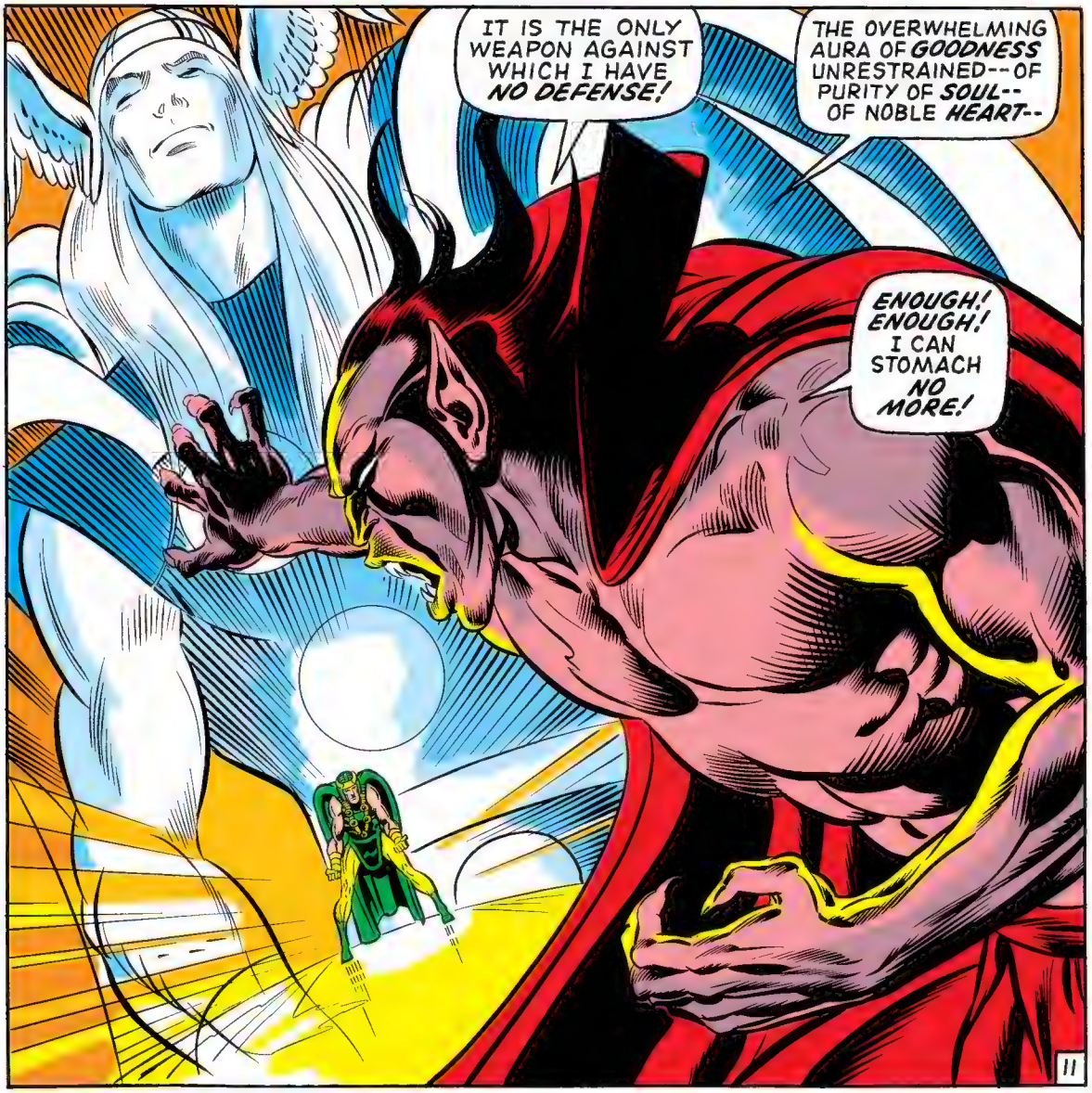
I'LL HEAR NO MORE! KNOW YE THOU HAST SEALED THY DOOM!
I NEED NOT THE THUNDER GOD'S POWER TO CRUSH THEE!

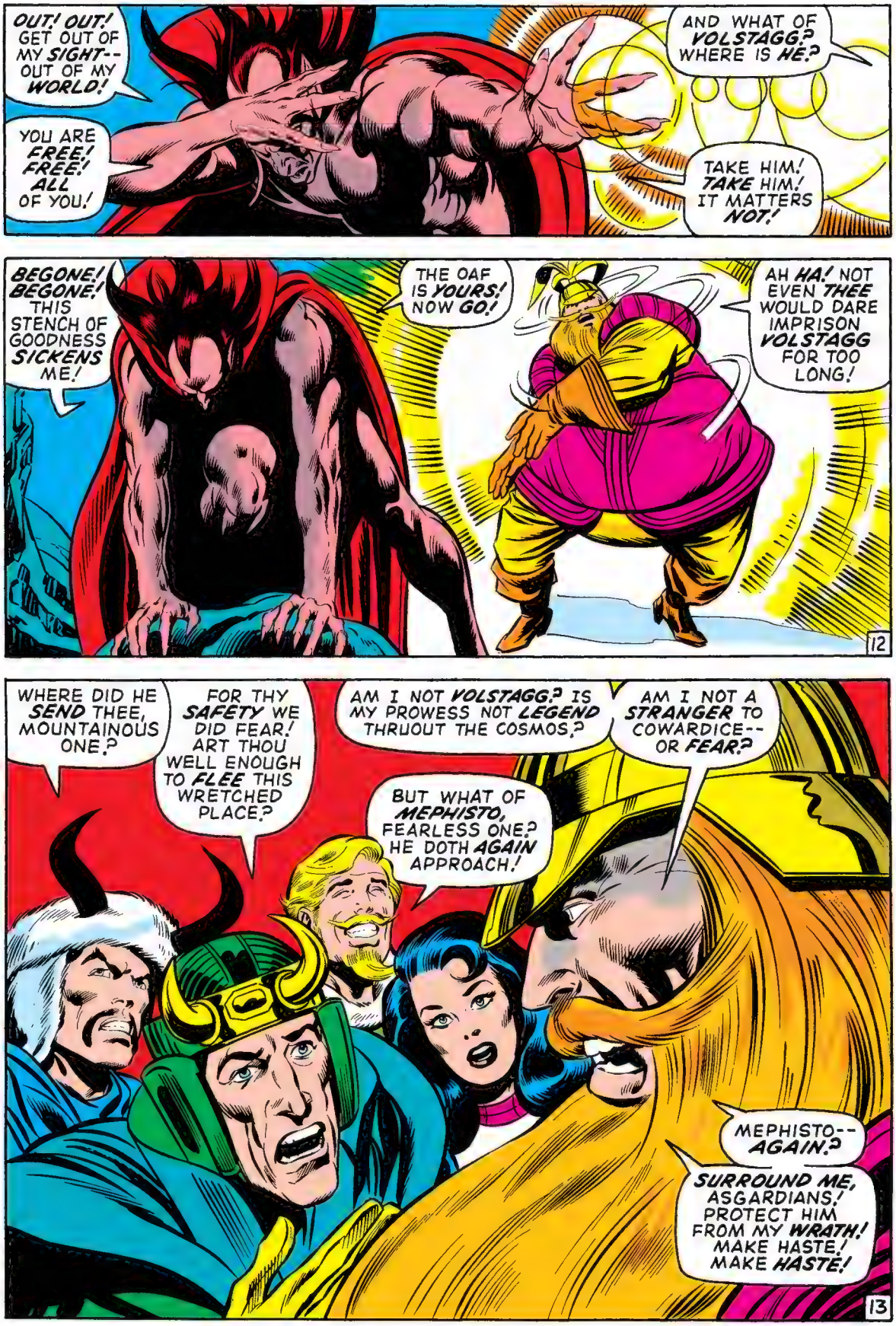

MINE OWN DEADLY SPELL WILL SILENCE THEE-- FORE'ER!
SO--BY THE MYSTIC MIGHT OF LOKI-- NOW SHALL BALDER FALL!

MY SPELL! WHAT MADNESS CAN THIS BE? IT HATH FAILED ME!
VICTIM THOU ART OF THINE OWN EVIL TRAP!
WHILE IN THE BODY OF THOR, THE MAGIC OF LOKI HATH LEFT THEE!
AND NOW, I HAVE TRICKED THEE INTO ADMITTING THY TRUE IDENTITY FOR ALL TO HEAR!
WHAT DOTH IT MATTER?
THE CHOICE IS MOST CLEAR--ALL MUST SERVE ME--OR DIE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE REALM OF MEPHISTO--
I COMMAND YOU, ASGARDIAN--DESIST!
NOT TILL THOU HAST FREED US--EACH ONE!
FOOL! YOUR FEEBLE SPELLS CANNOT SAVE THOSE WHOM MEPHISTO HAS DOOMED!
BE YOU LOKI--OR BE YOU THOR--IT MATTERS NOT!
I AM MEPHISTO! I AM EVIL INCARNATE! HERE 'MIDST THE FLAMES, I AM EQUAL TO ODIN!
MY VERY SOUL DOTH CRINGE TO HEAR THEE MOUTH MY FATHER'S NAME!
NOW SHALL WE SEE WHOSE IS THE POWER--!
10

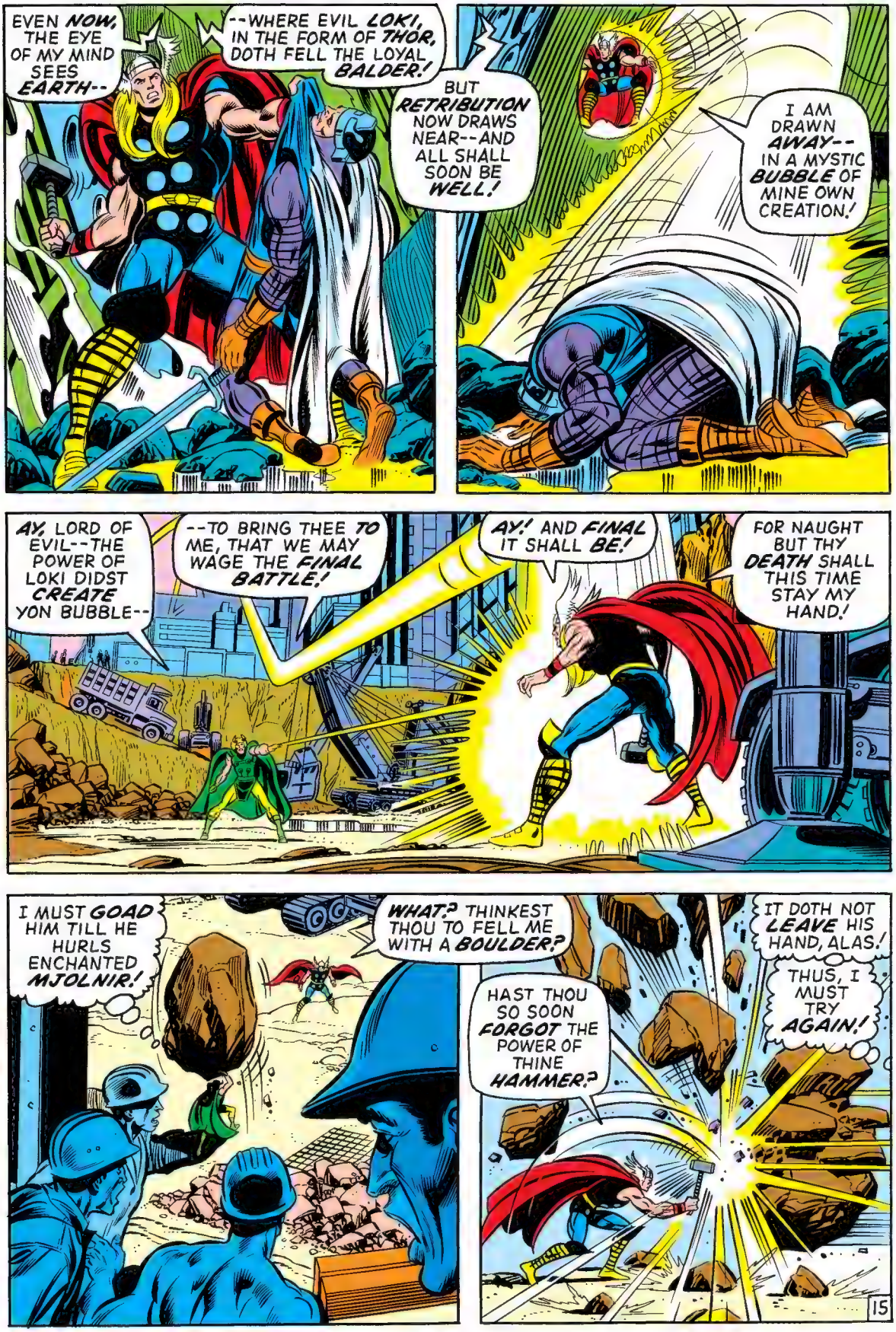
THE TIME HATH COME TO DRAW 'PON LOKI'S MYSTIC SKILL--
FOR I MUST SHRINK MY PHYSICAL FORM--
--TILL THE BODY IS NOTHING-- AND THE SOUL IS ALL!

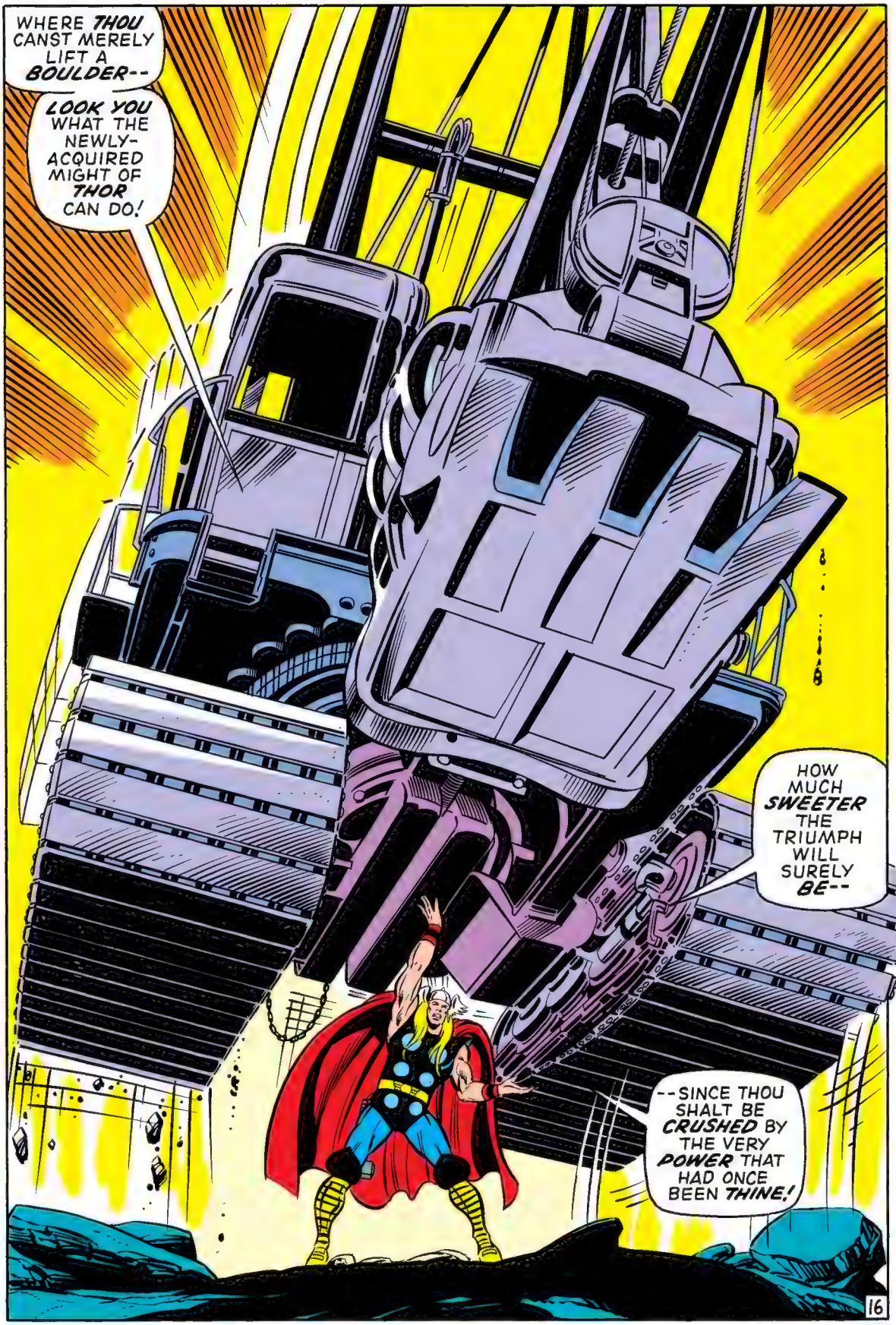
NO! NO! NO!

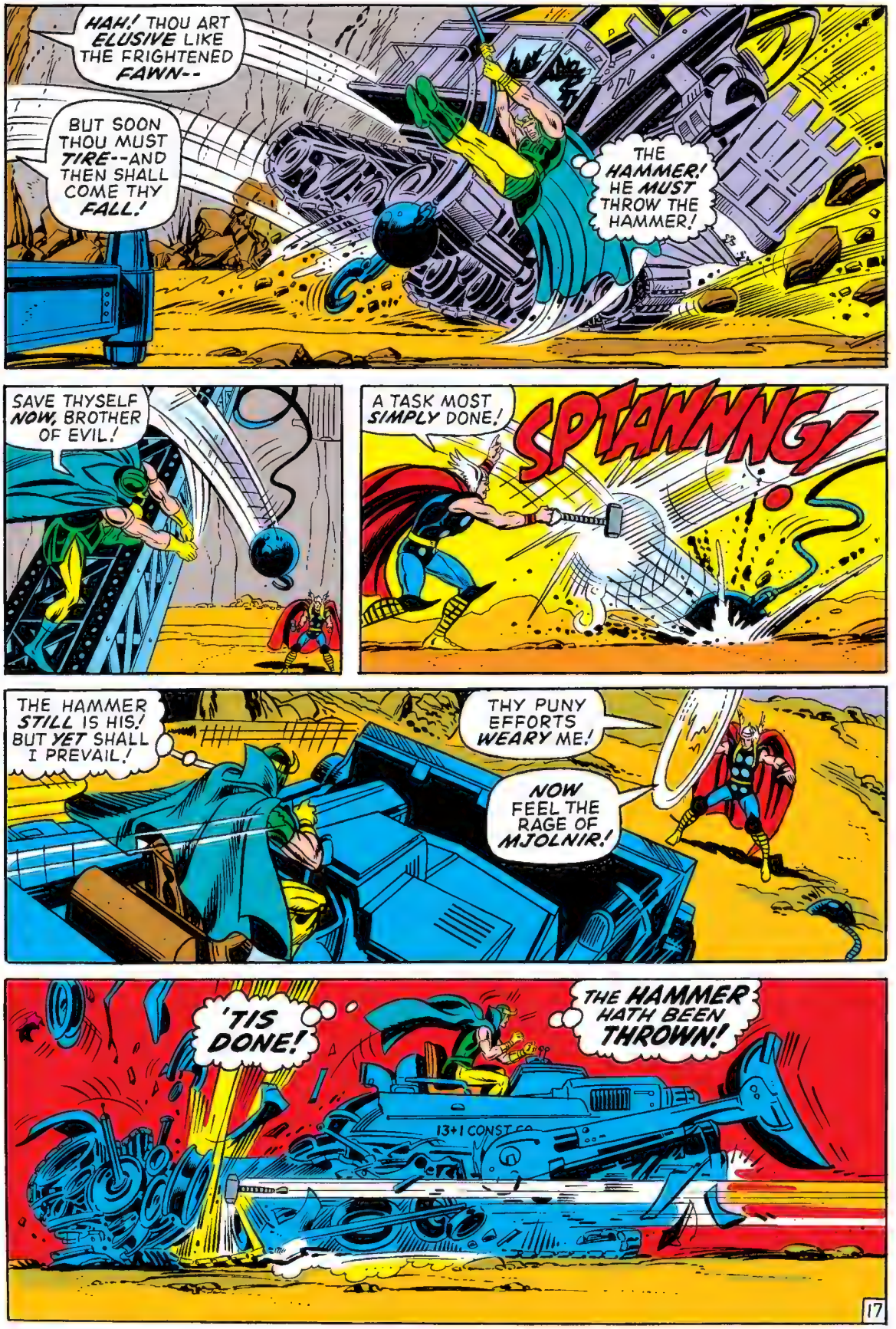

IT IS THE ONLY WEAPON AGAINST WHICH I HAVE NO DEFENSE!
THE OVERWHELMING AURA OF GOODNESS UNRESTRAINED-- OF PURITY OF SOUL-- OF NOBLE HEART--
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! I CAN STOMACH NO MORE!

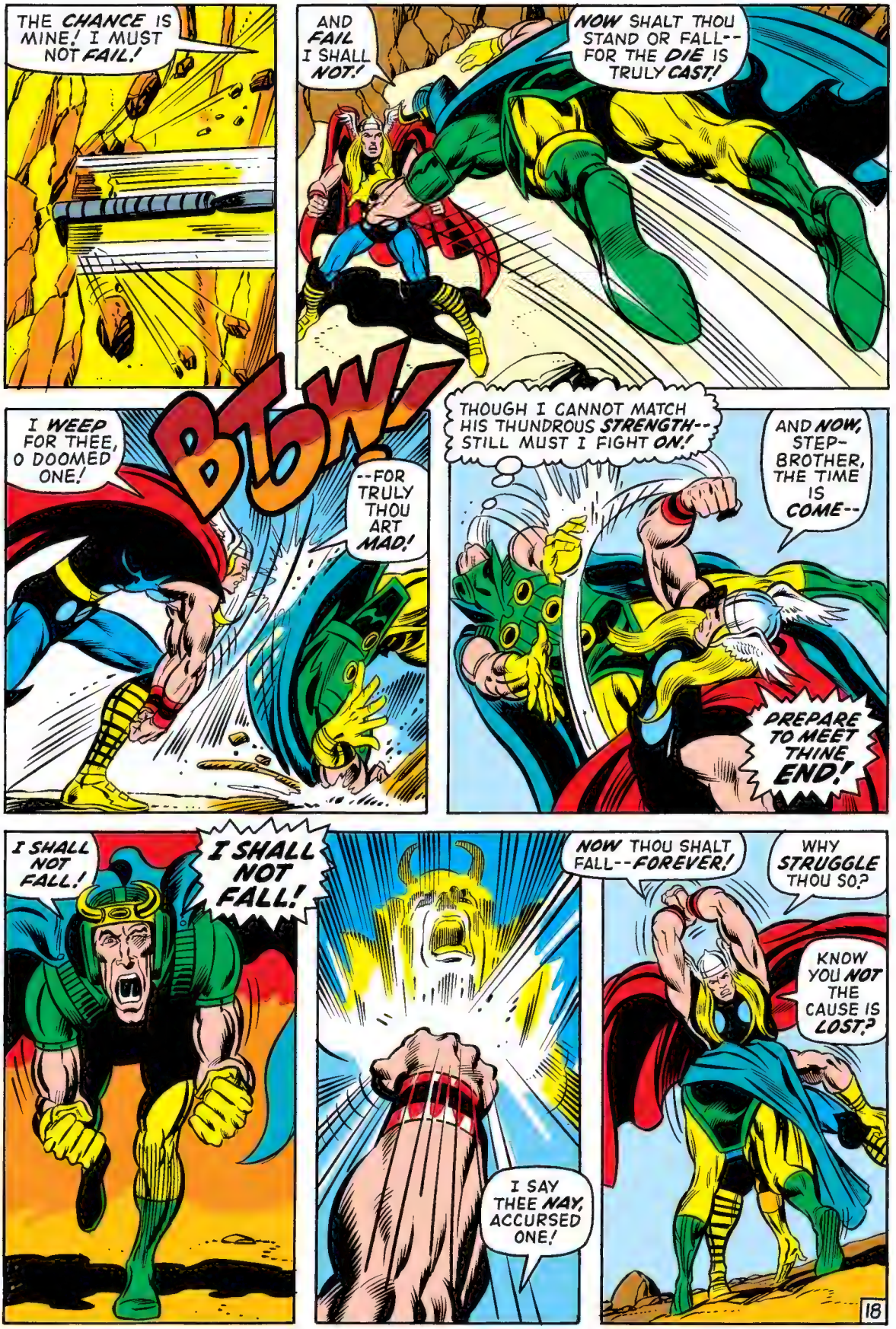

OUT! OUT! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT-- OUT OF MY WORLD!
YOU ARE FREE! FREE! ALL OF YOU!
AND WHAT OF VOLSTAGG? WHERE IS HE?
TAKE HIM! TAKE HIM! IT MATTERS NOT!
BEGONE! BEGONE! THIS STENCH OF GOODNESS SICKENS ME!
THE OAF IS YOURS! NOW GO!
AH HA! NOT EVEN THEE WOULD DARE IMPRISON VOLSTAGG FOR TOO LONG!
12
WHERE DID HE SEND THEE, MOUNTAINOUS ONE?
FOR THY SAFETY WE DID FEAR! ART THOU WELL ENOUGH TO FLEE THIS WRETCHED PLACE?
AM I NOT VOLSTAGG? IS MY PROWESS NOT LEGEND THRUOUT THE COSMOS?
AM I NOT A STRANGER TO COWARDICE-- OR FEAR?
BUT WHAT OF MEPHISTO, FEARLESS ONE? HE DOTH AGAIN APPROACH!
MEPHISTO-- AGAIN?
SURROUND ME, ASGARDIANS! PROTECT HIM FROM MY WRATH! MAKE HASTE! MAKE HASTE!
13

AND VERILY DO THEY HASTEN... TO THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE WHICH LEADS TO ETERNAL ASGARD--
HOLD, AND BE YE RECOGNIZED!
SO SPEAKS HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN TRUE OF BIFROST!
MY LORD! WHILST THOU ART IN THE GUISE OF LOKI, HEIMDALL WILL NOT LET THEE PASS!
TROUBLE THYSELF NOT, MY LADY!
ODIN BE WITH THEE, NOBLE PRINCE!
WHILST THOU AND THY COMPANIONS ENTER THE GOLDEN REALM--
--I MUST RETURN TO EARTH-- TO PREVAIL-- OR DIE!
IN TRUTH, I FEEL THE ALL-FATHER IS WITH ME EVER!
FOR AM I NOT FLESH OF HIS FLESH, BLOOD OF HIS BLOOD?
AND, EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD HURTLES EARTHWARD--
FEAR NOT, GOOD VIZIER! I KNOW FULL WELL WHAT HATH COME TO PASS!
THEN THOU HAST HEARD OF, LOKI'S BASE BETRAYAL, SIRE?
ODIN NEED NOT HEAR! ODIN HATH ONLY TO KNOW!


EVEN NOW, THE EYE OF MY MIND SEES EARTH--
--WHERE EVIL LOKI, IN THE FORM OF THOR, DOTH FELL THE LOYAL BALDER!
BUT RETRIBUTION NOW DRAWS NEAR--AND ALL SHALL SOON BE WELL!
I AM DRAWN AWAY-- IN A MYSTIC BUBBLE OF MINE OWN CREATION!
AY, LORD OF EVIL--THE POWER OF LOKI DIDST CREATE YON BUBBLE--
--TO BRING THEE TO ME, THAT WE MAY WAGE THE FINAL BATTLE!
AY! AND FINAL IT SHALL BE!
FOR NAUGHT BUT THY DEATH SHALL THIS TIME STAY MY HAND!
I MUST GOAD HIM TILL HE HURLS ENCHANTED MJOLNIR!
WHAT? THINKEST THOU TO FELL ME WITH A BOULDER?
HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOT THE POWER OF THINE HAMMER?
IT DOTH NOT LEAVE HIS HAND, ALAS!
THUS, I MUST TRY AGAIN!
15


WHERE THOU CANST MERELY LIFT A BOULDER--
LOOK YOU WHAT THE NEWLY-ACQUIRED MIGHT OF THOR CAN DO!
HOW MUCH SWEETER THE TRIUMPH WILL SURELY BE--
--SINCE THOU SHALT BE CRUSHED BY THE VERY POWER THAT HAD ONCE BEEN THINE!

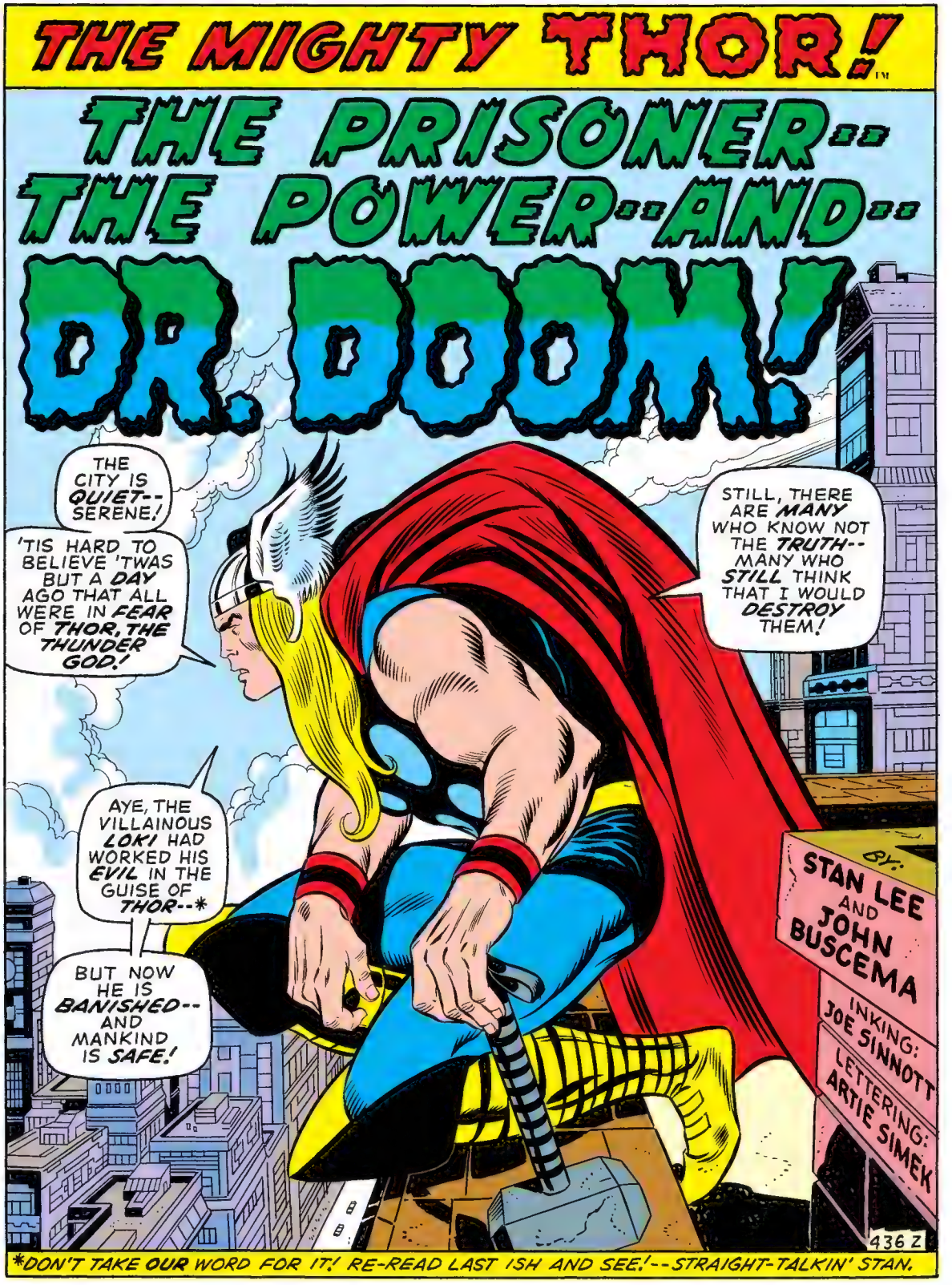

HAH! THOU ART ELUSIVE LIKE THE FRIGHTENED FAWN--
BUT SOON THOU MUST TIRE--AND THEN SHALL COME THY FALL!
THE HAMMER! HE MUST THROW THE HAMMER!
SAVE THYSELF NOW, BROTHER OF EVIL!
A TASK MOST SIMPLY DONE!
SPTAWNNG!
THE HAMMER STILL IS HIS! BUT YET SHALL I PREVAIL!
THY PUNY EFFORTS WEARY ME!
NOW FEEL THE RAGE OF MJOLNIR!
'TIS DONE!
THE HAMMER HATH BEEN THROWN!
13+1 CONST. CO.

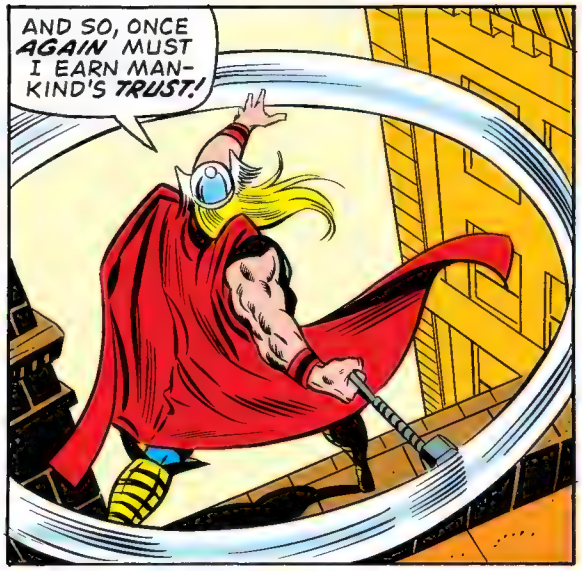

THE CHANCE IS MINE! I MUST NOT FAIL!
AND FAIL I SHALL NOT!
NOW SHALT THOU STAND OR FALL-- FOR THE DIE IS TRULY CAST!
I WEEP FOR THEE, O DOOMED ONE!
BLOW!
--FOR TRULY THOU ART MAD!
THOUGH I CANNOT MATCH HIS THUNDROUS STRENGTH-- STILL MUST I FIGHT ON!
AND NOW, STEP-BROTHER, THE TIME IS COME--
PREPARE TO MEET THINE END!
I SHALL NOT FALL!
I SHALL NOT FALL!
I SAY THEE NAY, ACCURSED ONE!
NOW THOU SHALT FALL--FOREVER!
WHY STRUGGLE THOU SO?
KNOW YOU NOT THE CAUSE IS LOST?
18

BUT THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER BLOW CAN FALL--
THERE IS THINE ANSWER, EVIL ONE!
MJOLNIR HATH LEFT THEE FOR MORE THAN SIXTY SECONDS--
AND SO IT MUST CHANGE --TO A SIMPLE STICK ONCE MORE!
AND, WHEN IT DOES--THE MORTAL FORM OF DONALD BLAKE APPEARS--
AND, THE GODLY SPIRIT THAT IS THOR--
--MUST REJOIN ME ONCE AGAIN!
FOR SUCH IS ODIN'S SPELL!
AND NOW--WHILE LOKI STANDS IN SHOCK--
I HAVE BUT TO REACH THE STICK--
AND, ONCE I HOLD IT IN MY HANDS AGAIN--
19

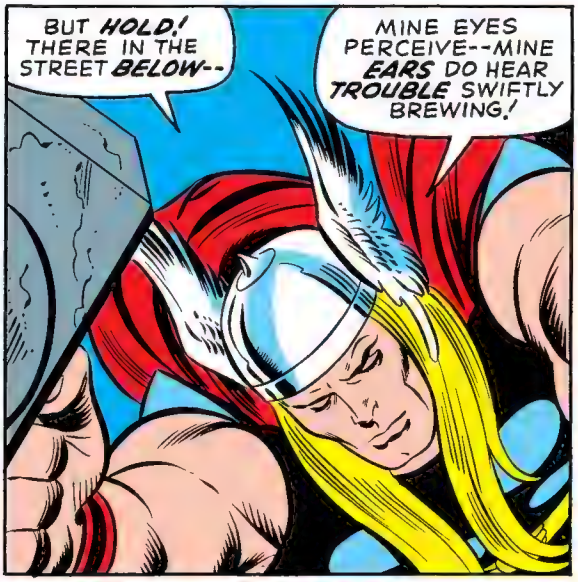
--AND STRIKE IT ON THE GROUND--
THERE IS NOTHING IN ASGARD OR EARTH I CANNOT DO--
FOR I STAND AS THOR--THE RIGHTFUL GOD OF THUNDER!
AND WHAT OF THEE, VILE VILLAIN?
DO YOU CHOOSE TO FIGHT--OR YIELD?
'TIS ALL THE SAME TO ME!
I DO NOT FIGHT--I DO NOT YIELD!
MY HATRED SHALL SUSTAIN ME!
I LEAVE THEE NOW--TO PLAN ANEW!
FOR, SURE AS NIGHT MUST FOLLOW DAY--
VICTORY SHALL YET BE MINE!
MAYHAP MY BROTHER SPAKE THE TRUTH--
BUT SO LONG AS I BE THUNDER GOD, EVIL NE'ER SHALL TRIUMPH!
NEXT
DR. DOOM AND DR. BLAKE!

THOR
15¢
182
NOV
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ME-- WITHOUT MY MASK-- YOU CANNOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE PRISONER, THE POWER and DR. DOOM!

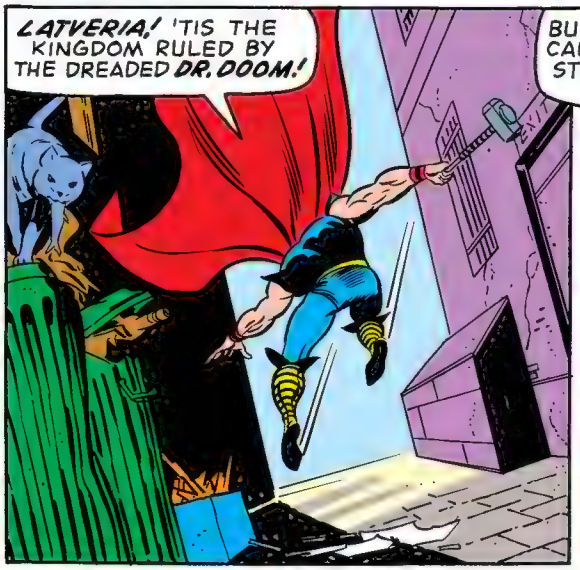

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
THE PRISONER-- THE POWER-- AND-- DR. DOOM!
THE CITY IS QUIET-- SERENE!
'TIS HARD TO BELIEVE 'TWAS BUT A DAY AGO THAT ALL WERE IN FEAR OF THOR, THE THUNDER GOD!
AYE, THE VILLAINOUS LOKI HAD WORKED HIS EVIL IN THE GUISE OF THOR--*
BUT NOW HE IS BANISHED-- AND MANKIND IS SAFE!
STILL, THERE ARE MANY WHO KNOW NOT THE TRUTH-- MANY WHO STILL THINK THAT I WOULD DESTROY THEM!
BY: STAN LEE AND JOHN BUSCEMA
INKING: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK
436 Z
*DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! RE-READ LAST ISH AND SEE!--STRAIGHT-TALKIN' STAN.

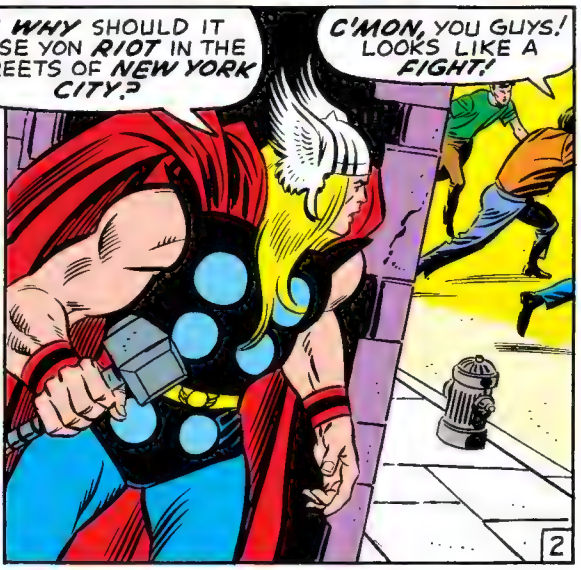

AND SO, ONCE AGAIN MUST I EARN MANKIND'S TRUST!

BUT HOW SHALL I DO SO WHEN THEY THINK ME THEIR FOE?
--WHEN THE VERY SIGHT OF ME DOTH CAUSE PANIC AMONGST THEM?

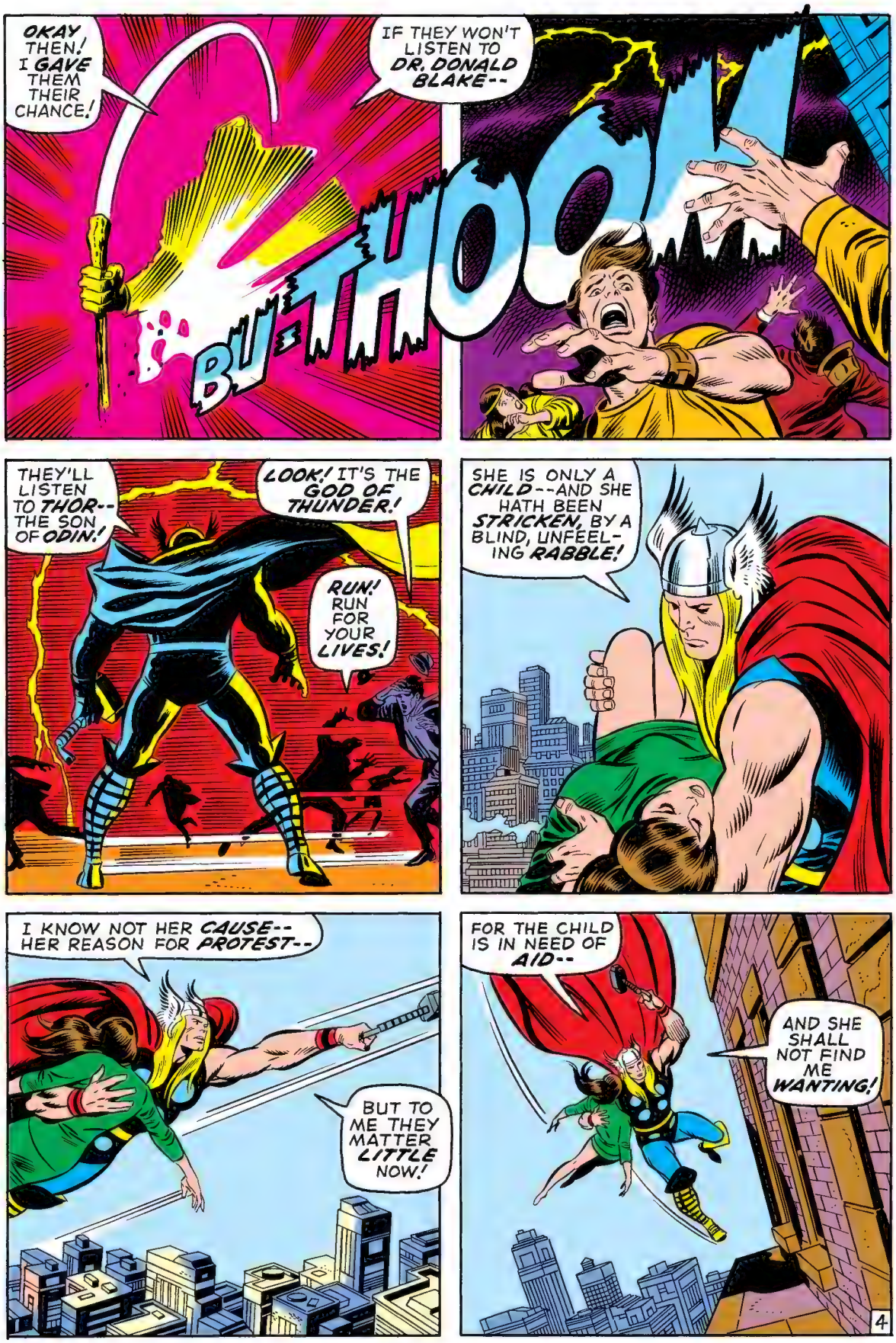

BUT HOLD! THERE IN THE STREET BELOW--
MINE EYES PERCEIVE--MINE EARS DO HEAR TROUBLE SWIFTLY BREWING!

YOU YOUNG TROUBLE-MAKER! ARE YOU TRYING TO START A WAR?
LATVERIAN EMBASSY
WE DON'T WANT YOU RADICALS AROUND HERE!
LEAVE HER ALONE! SHE'S NOT HARMING ANYONE!
END TYRANNY IN LATVERIA
YOU COMMIES ARE ALL ALIKE!
WHO YOU CALLIN' A COMMIE?


LATVERIA! 'TIS THE KINGDOM RULED BY THE DREADED DR. DOOM!

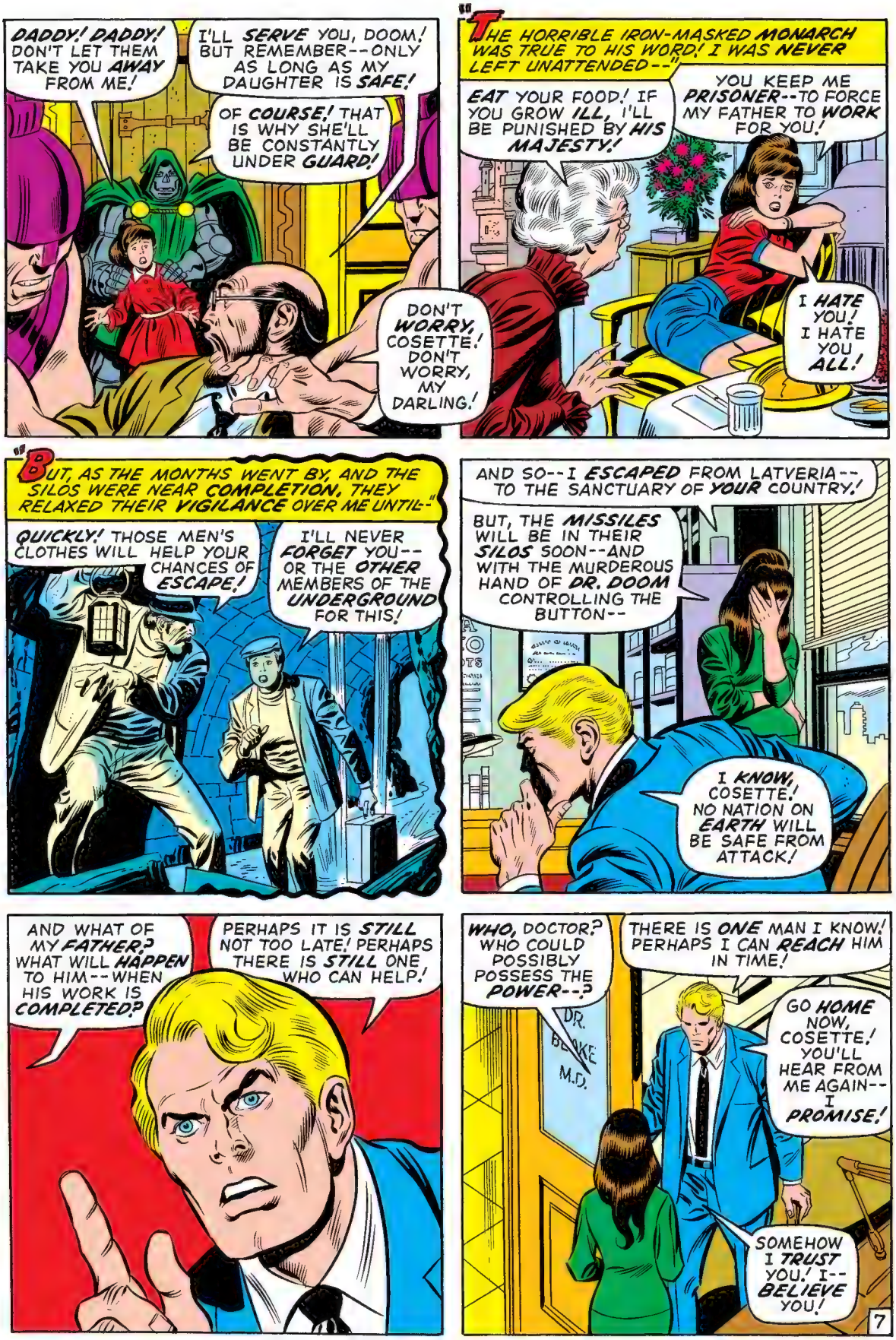

BUT WHY SHOULD IT CAUSE YON RIOT IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY?
C'MON, YOU GUYS! LOOKS LIKE A FIGHT!
2

MY INTEREST IS PIQUED! I MUST LEARN MORE OF WHAT DOTH OCCUR!
BUT NOT AS THOR, IMMORTAL GOD OF THUNDER!
I'LL GO INSTEAD AS DONALD BLAKE-- THE SOFT-SPOKEN, LAME PHYSICIAN!
THE CROWD IS GETTING OUT OF HAND--AND THE POLICE HAVEN'T YET REACHED THE SCENE!
THAT MEANS ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES!
I WON'T STOP PICKETING! DR. DOOM IS A MONSTER!
WHY DON'TCHA LEAVE THE KID ALONE? SHE'S GOT A RIGHT TO PROTEST!
END TYRANNY IN LATVERIA
BUTT OUT OF THIS, YA LONG-HAIRED CREEP--
IT'S ABOUT TIME THOSE HIPPIE ANARCHISTS LEARN WHERE IT'S AT!
WHO ARE YOU CALLIN' A HIP-- HEY! LOOK OUT!
GET SMART WITH ME, WILL YA?
END TYRANNY IN LATVERIA
DON'T! THERE'S NO REASON TO-- -OHHH!-
THE GIRL'S BEEN HURT!
GET BACK-- ALL OF YOU!
GET BACK I SAY! THIS GIRL NEEDS HELP!
IT'S NO USE! THEY WON'T LISTEN!
3.

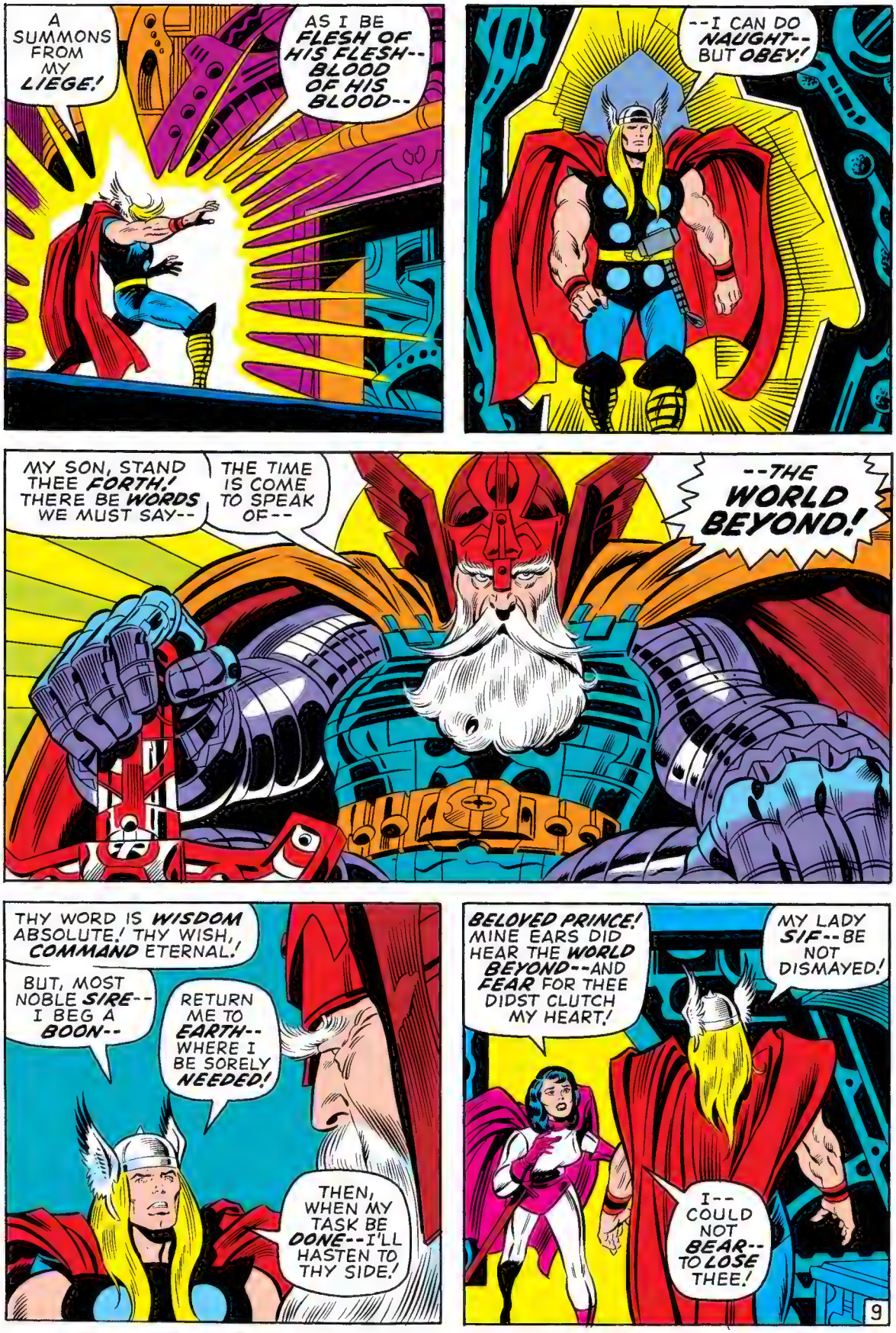

OKAY THEN! I GAVE THEM THEIR CHANCE!
IF THEY WON'T LISTEN TO DR. DONALD BLAKE--
BU-
THOOM!
THEY'LL LISTEN TO THOR-- THE SON OF ODIN!
LOOK! IT'S THE GOD OF THUNDER!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
SHE IS ONLY A CHILD--AND SHE HATH BEEN STRICKEN, BY A BLIND, UNFEELING RABBLE!
I KNOW NOT HER CAUSE-- HER REASON FOR PROTEST--
BUT TO ME THEY MATTER LITTLE NOW!
FOR THE CHILD IS IN NEED OF AID--
AND SHE SHALL NOT FIND ME WANTING!
4

BUT, WHERE ONCE THE POWER OF THOR ALONE COULD SERVE--
ANOTHER POWER IS NEEDED NOW!
--THE POWER OF HEALING...
WHICH THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE POSSESSES!
WHA--WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE SAFE, MY DEAR! YOU'RE IN THE OFFICE OF DR. BLAKE!
BUT, I MUST RETURN! I MUST BE HEARD! MY PROTEST MUST NOT FAIL!
WHY NOT TELL ME WHAT IT IS THAT YOU'RE PROTESTING?
WHAT CAN DR. DOOM--IN FAR-OFF LATVERIA--HAVE DONE TO A GIRL LIKE YOU?
YOUR ACCENT IS FRENCH! YOU ARE NOT LATVERIAN!
IT STILL PAINS ME--TO THINK OF IT! BUT I MUST! I MUST!
YOU ARE RIGHT! I AM FRENCH--OR, I WAS!
"IT HAPPENED A FEW YEARS AGO--IN THE STUDY OF MY FATHER--PROFESSOR LAFARGE--"
DO NOT MOVE! MAKE NO OUTCRY!
YOU ARE OUR PRISONERS!
THOSE UNIFORMS--THEY ARE--LATVERIAN!
YOU WERE SENT BY--DR. DOOM!
5.

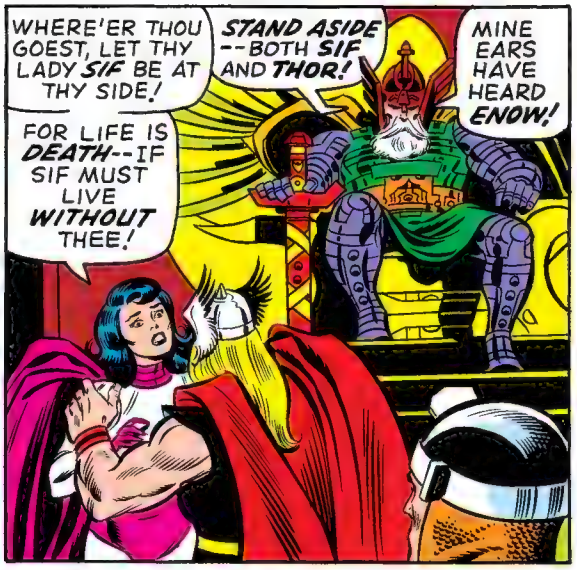
"HOURS LATER, MY FATHER WAS A PRISONER IN THE ROYAL CASTLE OF LATVERIA--"
YOU CANNOT DO THIS TO A CITIZEN OF FRANCE!
BUT I HAVE DONE NOTHING, MON AMI!
YOU HAVE COME TO VISIT ME-- OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL!
YOU ARE MAD! YOU KNOW THAT IS NOT SO!
HAVE YOU NOT OFFERED TO SERVE ME-- TO CONSTRUCT NEW MISSILE SILOS FOR MY USE?
NEVER! NEVER WILL I PUT MY TALENTS TO THE USE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS MONARCH!
I THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT --BUT ALAS, YOU SPEAK TOO QUICKLY!
BRING IN THE CHILD!
MY DAUGHTER--COSETTE! YOU FIEND! YOU WOULD THREATEN ME WITH HER.?!!
DO NOT BE AFRAID, MY DEAR!
THREATS, PROFESSOR? WHO SPEAKS OF THREATS?
ENOUGH! I CAN BEAR NO MORE!
I WILL DESIGN YOUR SILOS!
BUT NO HARM MUST COME TO MY COSETTE!
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, PROFESSOR! AND, TO MAKE CERTAIN YOUR DAUGHTER SUFFERS NO HARM--
--SHE SHALL REMAIN WITHIN MY CASTLE--IN MY CARE--UNTIL THE MISSILE SILOS ARE COMPLETED!
6


DADDY! DADDY! DON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ME!
I'LL SERVE YOU, DOOM! BUT REMEMBER--ONLY AS LONG AS MY DAUGHTER IS SAFE!
OF COURSE! THAT IS WHY SHE'LL BE CONSTANTLY UNDER GUARD!
DON'T WORRY, COSETTE! DON'T WORRY, MY DARLING!
"THE HORRIBLE IRON-MASKED MONARCH WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD! I WAS NEVER LEFT UNATTENDED--"
EAT YOUR FOOD! IF YOU GROW ILL, I'LL BE PUNISHED BY HIS MAJESTY!
YOU KEEP ME PRISONER--TO FORCE MY FATHER TO WORK FOR YOU!
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU ALL!
"BUT, AS THE MONTHS WENT BY, AND THE SILOS WERE NEAR COMPLETION, THEY RELAXED THEIR VIGILANCE OVER ME UNTIL--"
QUICKLY! THOSE MEN'S CLOTHES WILL HELP YOUR CHANCES OF ESCAPE!
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU--OR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGROUND FOR THIS!
AND SO--I ESCAPED FROM LATVERIA--TO THE SANCTUARY OF YOUR COUNTRY!
BUT, THE MISSILES WILL BE IN THEIR SILOS SOON--AND WITH THE MURDEROUS HAND OF DR. DOOM CONTROLLING THE BUTTON--
I KNOW, COSETTE! NO NATION ON EARTH WILL BE SAFE FROM ATTACK!
AND WHAT OF MY FATHER? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM--WHEN HIS WORK IS COMPLETED?
PERHAPS IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE! PERHAPS THERE IS STILL ONE WHO CAN HELP!
WHO, DOCTOR? WHO COULD POSSIBLY POSSESS THE POWER--?
DR. BLAKE M.D.
THERE IS ONE MAN I KNOW! PERHAPS I CAN REACH HIM IN TIME!
GO HOME NOW, COSETTE! YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME AGAIN--I PROMISE!
SOMEHOW I TRUST YOU! I--BELIEVE YOU!
7

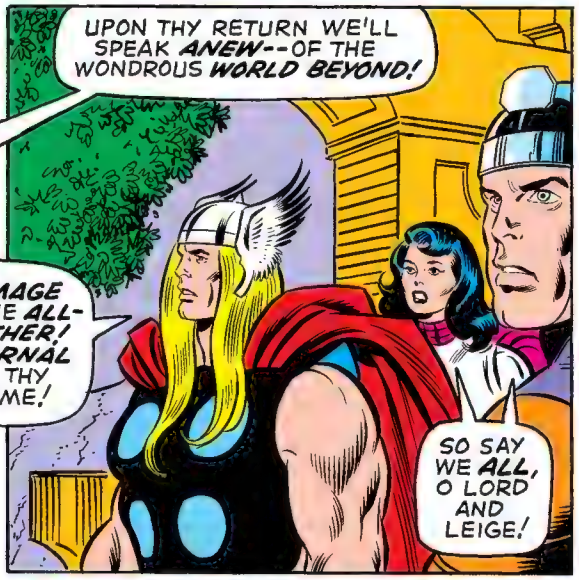
DOOM IS A KING--AN ABSOLUTE MONARCH! NOT EVEN THOR HAS THE RIGHT TO ATTACK A SOVEREIGN NATION!
BUT, IF I COULD FIND A WAY--TO MAKE DR. DOOM COME--TO ME!
EVEN HE MUST HAVE A WEAKNESS--SOME CHINK IN HIS ARMOR!
AND I THINK I CAN GUESS WHAT IT IS!
THE IRON MASK HE WEARS--MUST CONCEAL SOME UGLY DISFIGUREMENT!
HELLO, AFFILIATED PRESS? LET ME TALK TO HARRIS HOBBS!
WHAT'S THAT, DOC? YOU'VE GOT A STORY FOR ME? OKAY--OKAY--SHOOT!
ANY GUY WHO'S A FRIEND OF THOR'S CAN GET ME TO LISTEN ANY TIME!
SECONDS LATER--
THAT'S THAT! NOW, IF HE'LL WRITE IT JUST THE WAY I--WHA--?!!
AT THE WINDOW! THAT FACE--IN THE SKY--!
A FACE THAT ONLY I CAN SEE!
THE FACE OF ALMIGHTY ODIN!
COME TO ME, MY SON!
THY FATHER AWAITS THEE--IN HALLOWED ASGARD!
8

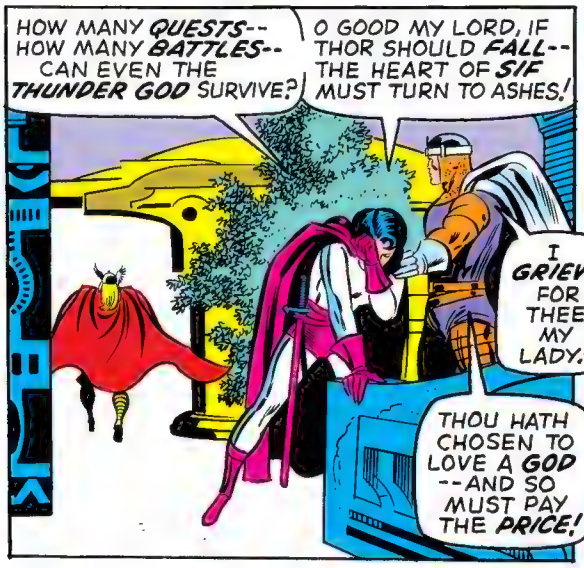

A SUMMONS FROM MY LIEGE!
AS I BE FLESH OF HIS FLESH-- BLOOD OF HIS BLOOD--
--I CAN DO NAUGHT-- BUT OBEY!
MY SON, STAND THEE FORTH! THERE BE WORDS WE MUST SAY--
THE TIME IS COME TO SPEAK OF--
--THE WORLD BEYOND!
THY WORD IS WISDOM ABSOLUTE! THY WISH, COMMAND ETERNAL!
BUT, MOST NOBLE SIRE-- I BEG A BOON--
RETURN ME TO EARTH-- WHERE I BE SORELY NEEDED!
THEN, WHEN MY TASK BE DONE--I'LL HASTEN TO THY SIDE!
BELOVED PRINCE! MINE EARS DID HEAR THE WORLD BEYOND--AND FEAR FOR THEE DIDST CLUTCH MY HEART!
MY LADY SIF--BE NOT DISMAYED!
I-- COULD NOT BEAR-- TO LOSE THEE!

WHO SPEAKS OF LOSS? WHERE THOR BE THREATENED--THERE SHALL BALDER STAND AS WELL!
NE'ER DIDST GOD OR MORTAL MAN RECEIVE SUCH LOVE AS UNDESERVING THOR!


WHERE'ER THOU GOEST, LET THY LADY SIF BE AT THY SIDE!
STAND ASIDE --BOTH SIF AND THOR!
MINE EARS HAVE HEARD ENOW!
FOR LIFE IS DEATH--IF SIF MUST LIVE WITHOUT THEE!

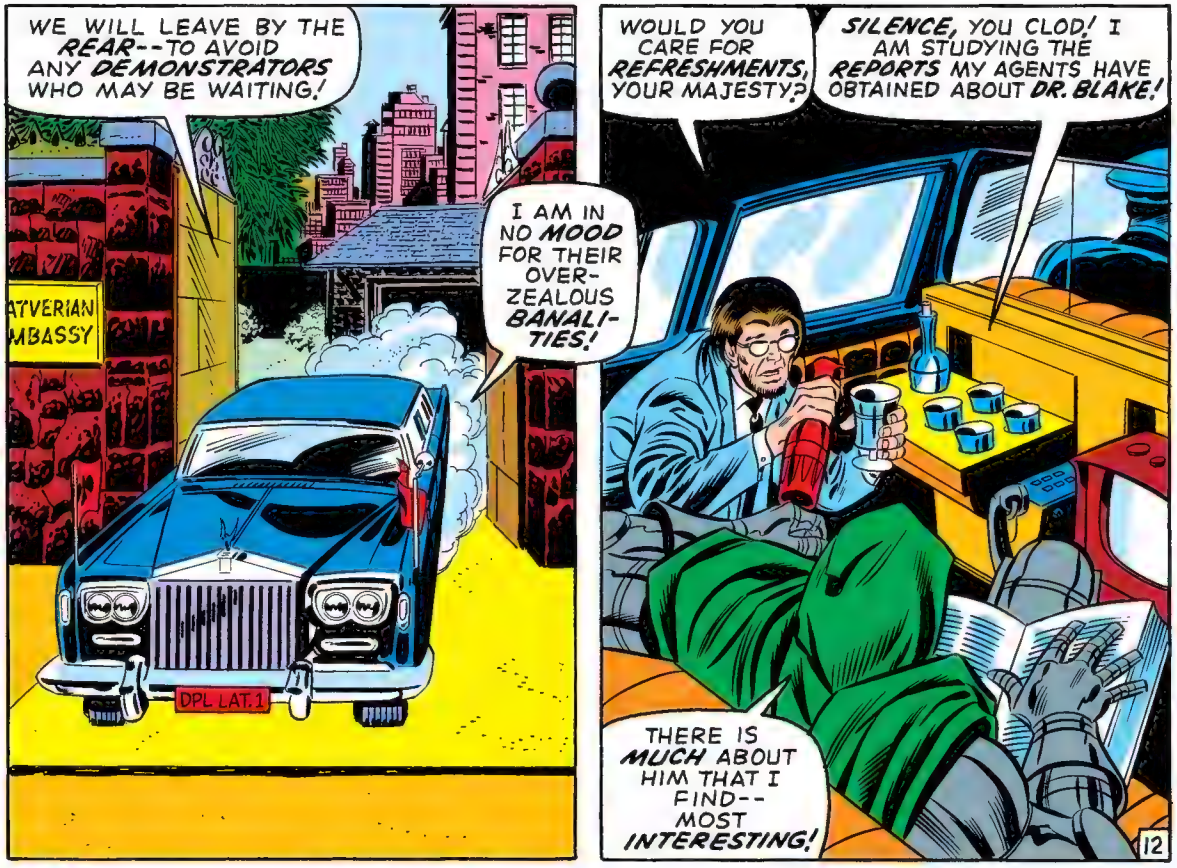
THUNDER GOD, I GRANT THY BOON! THOU SHALT RETURN TO EARTH!
BUT AS THOU CAME--SO SHALT THOU LEAVE--
I SAY THEE-- GO ALONE!

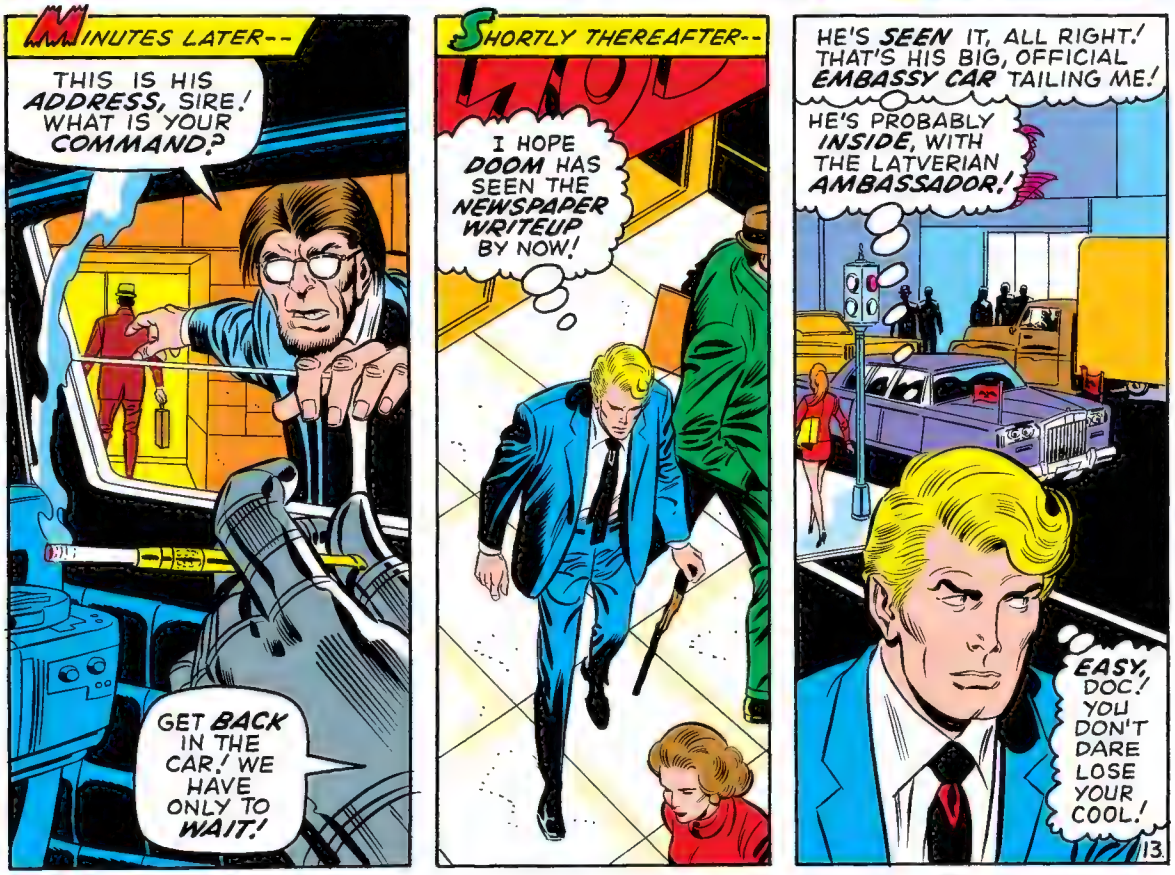

UPON THY RETURN WE'LL SPEAK ANEW--OF THE WONDROUS WORLD BEYOND!
HOMAGE TO THE ALL-FATHER! ETERNAL BE THY NAME!
SO SAY WE ALL, O LORD AND LEIGE!

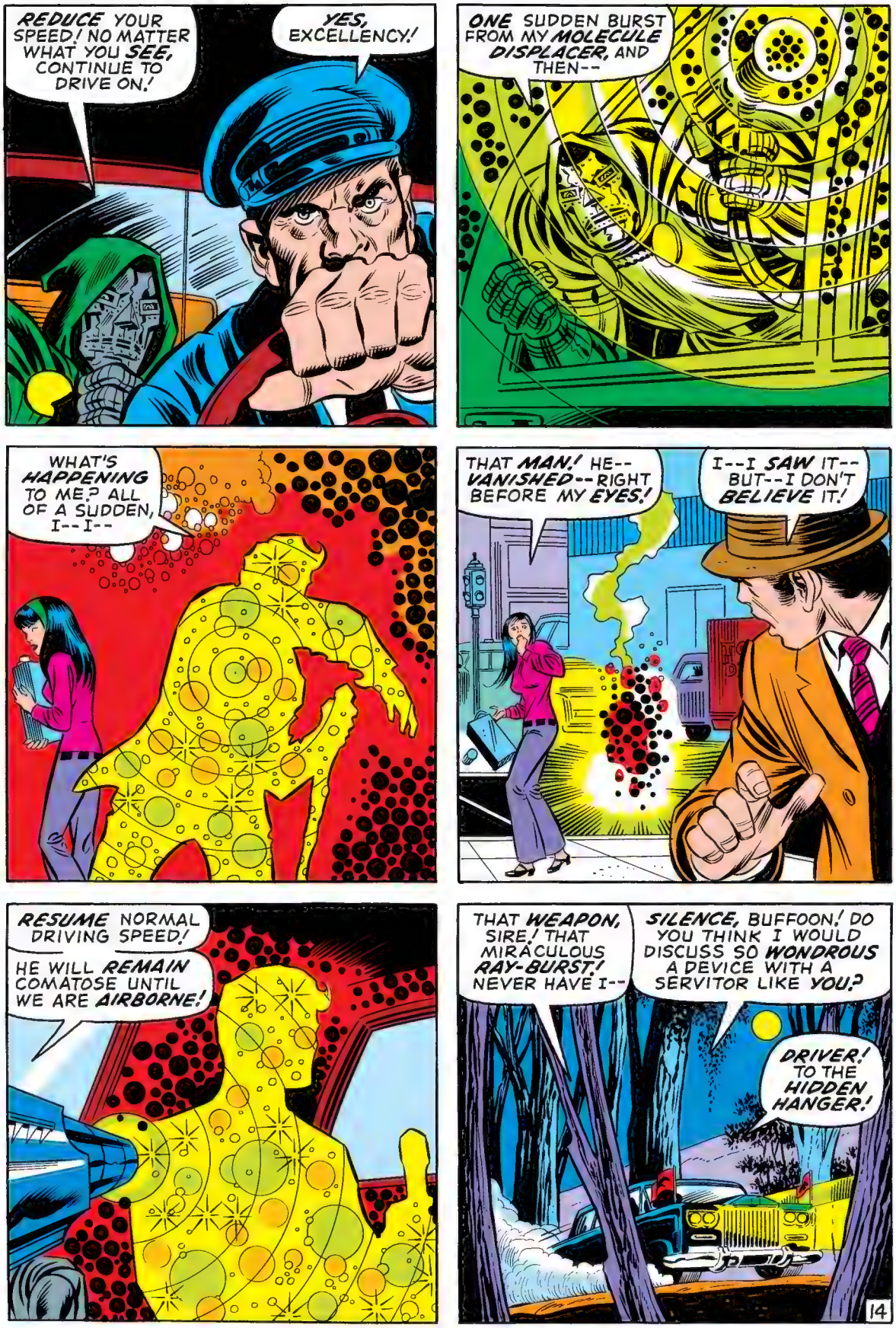

HOW MANY QUESTS-- HOW MANY BATTLES-- CAN EVEN THE THUNDER GOD SURVIVE?
O GOOD MY LORD, IF THOR SHOULD FALL-- THE HEART OF SIF MUST TURN TO ASHES!
I GRIEVE FOR THEE, MY LADY!
THOU HATH CHOSEN TO LOVE A GOD --AND SO MUST PAY THE PRICE!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH--WITHIN THE CLOSELY-GUARDED LATVERIAN EMBASSY--
NO NEWS BUT THIS COULD HAVE BROUGHT ME TO AMERICA!
DAILY BUGLE
NEW PLASTIC SURGERY METHOD ANNOUNCED!
SENSATIONAL BREAKTHRU!
ANY FACE, NO MATTER HOW DISFIGURED, CAN BE MADE NORMAL AGAIN, SAYS DR. DONALD BLAKE.

I HAVE WEALTH UNTOLD--POWER BEYOND MEASURE--I AM THE LAW UNTO MYSELF!
AND YET--MY UGLINESS MAKES ME LESS A MAN THAN THE LOWLIEST CLOD ON EARTH!
BUT--IF BLAKE CAN CURE ME--IF HE CAN MAKE MY SCARRED AND BATTERED FACE SEEM HUMAN ONCE AGAIN--
--THEN HE MUST! HE MUST! HE MUST!
FOR, NOT EVEN I CAN BEAR TO REMOVE MY GRISLY MASK--
NOT EVEN I CAN ENDURE THE SIGHT THAT LIES BENEATH!
NOT EVEN I--I--I!!
KLA-WG!
MAJESTY! THAT NOISE I HEARD--!
ARE YOU--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
HAVE YOU NO EYES TO SEE, YOU DOLT?!!
AM I NOT UNMATCHED IN SHEER BRILLIANCE, POWER, AND WEAPONRY?
NOTHING CAN HARM ME--UNLESS I ALLOW IT!
NOW SUMMON THE CAR--AT ONCE!
YES, SIRE! OF COURSE!
WE ARE CALLING ON--DR. BLAKE!
11

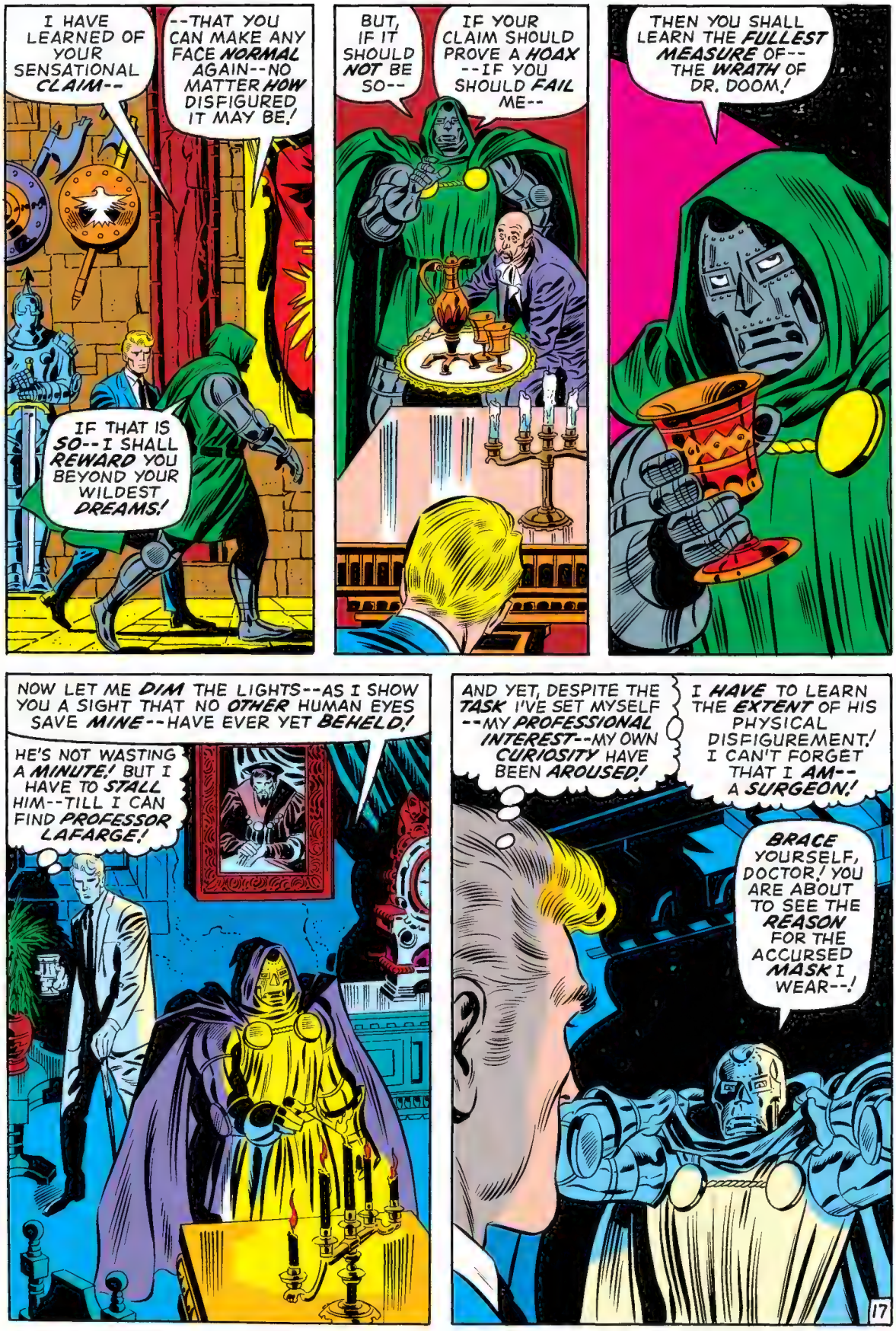

WE WILL LEAVE BY THE REAR--TO AVOID ANY DEMONSTRATORS WHO MAY BE WAITING!
ATVERIAN MBASSY
DPL LAT.1
I AM IN NO MOOD FOR THEIR OVER-ZEALOUS BANALITIES!
WOULD YOU CARE FOR REFRESHMENTS, YOUR MAJESTY?
SILENCE, YOU CLOD! I AM STUDYING THE REPORTS MY AGENTS HAVE OBTAINED ABOUT DR. BLAKE!
THERE IS MUCH ABOUT HIM THAT I FIND-- MOST INTERESTING!
12

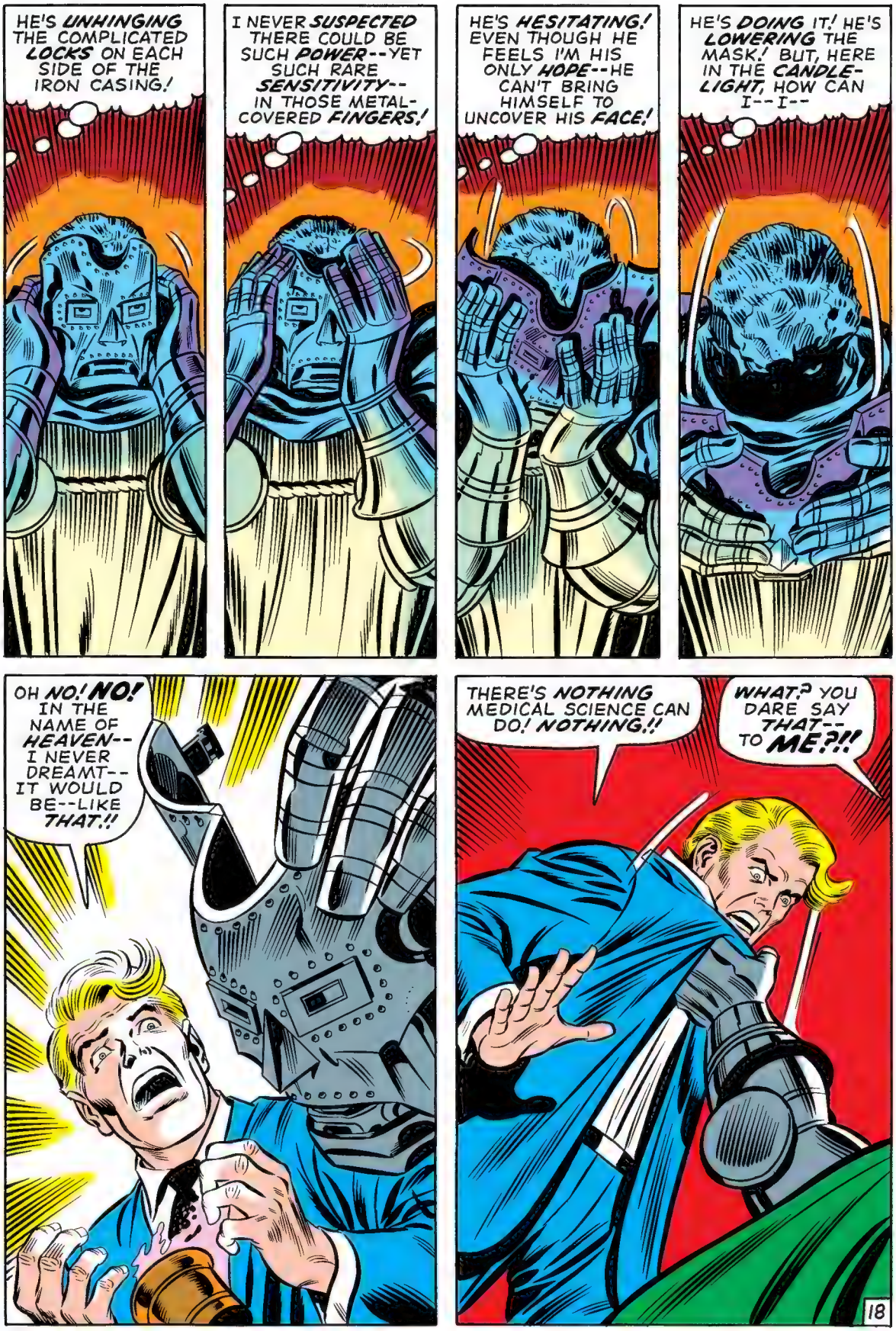

MINUTES LATER--
THIS IS HIS ADDRESS, SIRE! WHAT IS YOUR COMMAND?
GET BACK IN THE CAR! WE HAVE ONLY TO WAIT!
SHORTLY THEREAFTER--
I HOPE DOOM HAS SEEN THE NEWSPAPER WRITEUP BY NOW!
HE'S SEEN IT, ALL RIGHT! THAT'S HIS BIG, OFFICIAL EMBASSY CAR TAILING ME!
HE'S PROBABLY INSIDE, WITH THE LATVERIAN AMBASSADOR!
EASY, DOC! YOU DON'T DARE LOSE YOUR COOL!
13

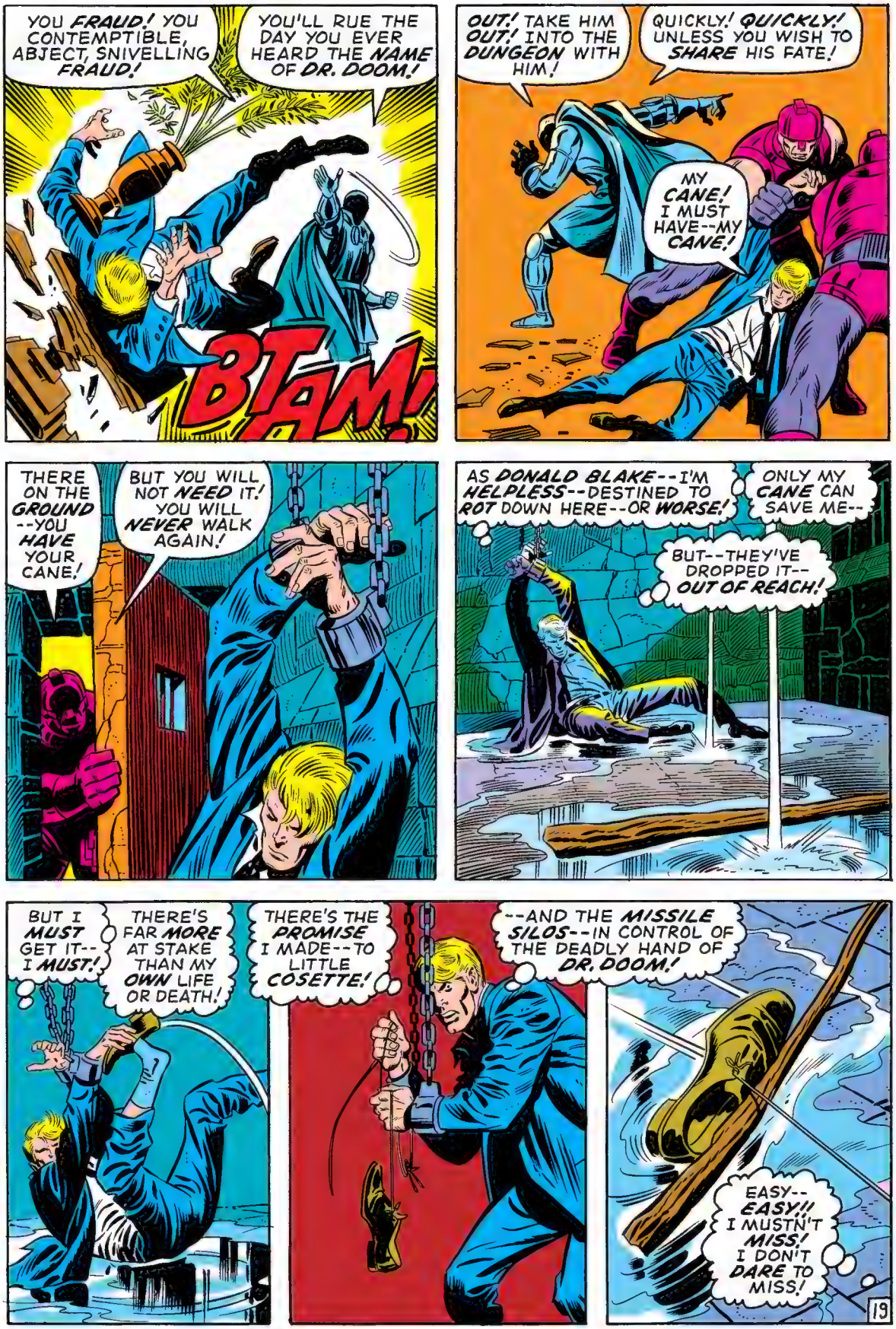

REDUCE YOUR SPEED! NO MATTER WHAT YOU SEE, CONTINUE TO DRIVE ON.!
YES, EXCELLENCY.!
ONE SUDDEN BURST FROM MY MOLECULE DISPLACER, AND THEN--
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? ALL OF A SUDDEN, I--I--
THAT MAN.! HE-- VANISHED-- RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.!
I--I SAW IT-- BUT--I DON'T BELIEVE IT.!
RESUME NORMAL DRIVING SPEED.!
HE WILL REMAIN COMATOSE UNTIL WE ARE AIRBORNE!
THAT WEAPON, SIRE.! THAT MIRACULOUS RAY-BURST.! NEVER HAVE I--
SILENCE, BUFFOON.! DO YOU THINK I WOULD DISCUSS SO WONDROUS A DEVICE WITH A SERVITOR LIKE YOU.?
DRIVER.! TO THE HIDDEN HANGER.!
14

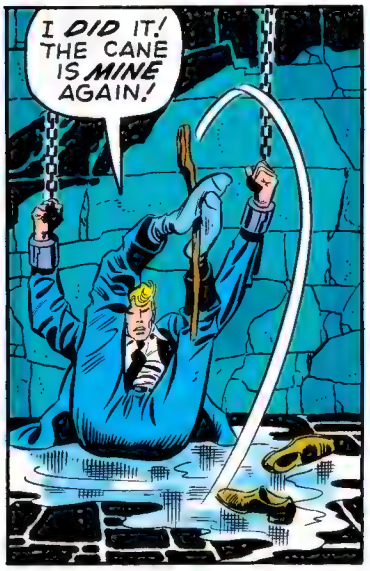
MINUTES LATER--
QUICKLY! ACTIVATE THE HYDRAULIC CAMAUFLAGE!
AT ONCE, SIRE!
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
KLAKKK!
WHRRRRRRR
NOW-- CARRY MY CAPTIVE INTO THE WAITING AIRCRAFT!
AS YOU COMMAND, SIRE!
EXCELLENCY-- IF YOU TAKE HIM TO LATVERIA-- AGAINST HIS WILL--
HOLD YOUR TONGUE! I CAN DO ANYTHING! ANYTHING!
AM I NOT RULER OF A SOVEREIGN STATE? DO I NOT ENJOY TOTAL DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY?
RETURN TO THE EMBASSY! YOUR WORK IS DONE!
15

NOT EVEN THE UNITED STATES WILL GO TO WAR OVER THE CAPTURE OF ONE LONE CITIZEN!
BESIDES, I CALL HIM MY GUEST, RATHER THAN PRISONER!
AND WHO WOULD DARE DISPUTE THE WORD OF LATVERIA'S ABSOLUTE MONARCH?!!
SO! YOU REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS! GOOD! I WOULD HAVE YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MOST HIGHLY HONORED!
IT WORKED! HE REACTED AS I HOPED HE WOULD!
THE KING OF LATVERIA IS NOW PERSONALLY TRANSPORTING YOU TO HIS IMPERIAL PALACE WHERE YOU SHALL BE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE HIM!
BUT I MUST BE ON MY GUARD-- EVERY SECOND!
SETTLE BACK, DR. BLAKE! I AM ABOUT TO INCREASE OUR SPEED!
BY SIMPLY RETRACTING THE ROTOR BLADES AND REVERTING TO FULL JET POWER--
I TRANSFORM THIS SHIP INTO A GLOBE-GIRDLING FLYING MISSILE!
A MISSILE WHICH CAN SPAN THE OCEAN IN A MATTER OF FLEETING MINUTES!
BELOW US-- THE KINGDOM OF LATVERIA! WE'VE ARRIVED!
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ALL THIS?
FOLLOW ME, DOCTOR! YOU MAY CONSIDER IT A COMMAND PERFORM-ANCE!


I HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR SENSATIONAL CLAIM--
--THAT YOU CAN MAKE ANY FACE NORMAL AGAIN--NO MATTER HOW DISFIGURED IT MAY BE!
IF THAT IS SO--I SHALL REWARD YOU BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!
BUT, IF IT SHOULD NOT BE SO--
IF YOUR CLAIM SHOULD PROVE A HOAX --IF YOU SHOULD FAIL ME--
THEN YOU SHALL LEARN THE FULLEST MEASURE OF-- THE WRATH OF DR. DOOM!
NOW LET ME DIM THE LIGHTS--AS I SHOW YOU A SIGHT THAT NO OTHER HUMAN EYES SAVE MINE--HAVE EVER YET BEHELD!
HE'S NOT WASTING A MINUTE! BUT I HAVE TO STALL HIM--TILL I CAN FIND PROFESSOR LAFARGE!
AND YET, DESPITE THE TASK I'VE SET MYSELF --MY PROFESSIONAL INTEREST--MY OWN CURIOSITY HAVE BEEN AROUSED!
I HAVE TO LEARN THE EXTENT OF HIS PHYSICAL DISFIGUREMENT! I CAN'T FORGET THAT I AM-- A SURGEON!
BRACE YOURSELF, DOCTOR! YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE THE REASON FOR THE ACCURSED MASK I WEAR--!


HE'S UNHINGING THE COMPLICATED LOCKS ON EACH SIDE OF THE IRON CASING!
I NEVER SUSPECTED THERE COULD BE SUCH POWER--YET SUCH RARE SENSITIVITY-- IN THOSE METAL-COVERED FINGERS!
HE'S HESITATING! EVEN THOUGH HE FEELS I'M HIS ONLY HOPE--HE CAN'T BRING HIMSELF TO UNCOVER HIS FACE!
HE'S DOING IT! HE'S LOWERING THE MASK! BUT, HERE IN THE CANDLE-LIGHT, HOW CAN I--I--
OH NO! NO! IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN-- I NEVER DREAMT-- IT WOULD BE--LIKE THAT!!
THERE'S NOTHING MEDICAL SCIENCE CAN DO! NOTHING!!
WHAT? YOU DARE SAY THAT-- TO ME?!!
18

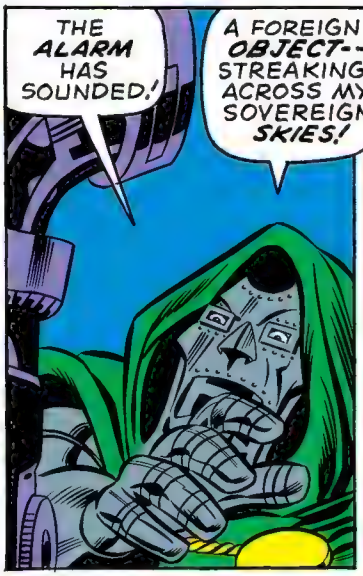

YOU FRAUD! YOU CONTEMPTIBLE, ABJECT, SNIVELLING FRAUD!
YOU'LL RUE THE DAY YOU EVER HEARD THE NAME OF DR. DOOM!
BTAM!
OUT! TAKE HIM OUT! INTO THE DUNGEON WITH HIM!
QUICKLY! QUICKLY! UNLESS YOU WISH TO SHARE HIS FATE!
MY CANE! I MUST HAVE--MY CANE!
THERE ON THE GROUND --YOU HAVE YOUR CANE!
BUT YOU WILL NOT NEED IT! YOU WILL NEVER WALK AGAIN!
AS DONALD BLAKE--I'M HELPLESS--DESTINED TO ROT DOWN HERE--OR WORSE!
ONLY MY CANE CAN SAVE ME--
BUT--THEY'VE DROPPED IT-- OUT OF REACH!
BUT I MUST GET IT-- I MUST!
THERE'S FAR MORE AT STAKE THAN MY OWN LIFE OR DEATH!
THERE'S THE PROMISE I MADE--TO LITTLE COSETTE!
--AND THE MISSILE SILOS--IN CONTROL OF THE DEADLY HAND OF DR. DOOM!
EASY-- EASY!! I MUSTN'T MISS! I DON'T DARE TO MISS!


I DID IT! THE CANE IS MINE AGAIN!

AND SO IS-- THE POWER OF--

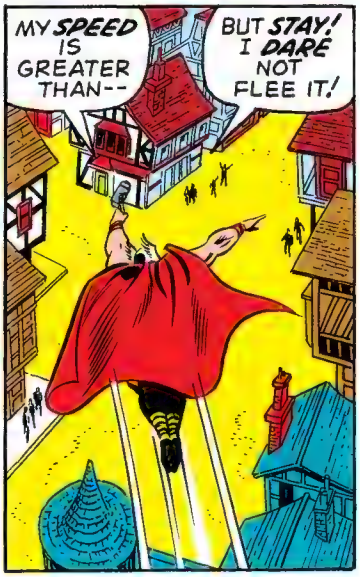
THE MIGHTY THOR!
FTOK!
THRAK

NO BARREN DUNGEON SHALL IMPRISON THE GOD OF THUNDER!


THE ALARM HAS SOUNDED!
A FOREIGN OBJECT-- STREAKING ACROSS MY SOVEREIGN SKIES!

NO MATTER WHAT IT MAY BE--IT CAN'T ELUDE MY STALKER MISSILE!
SHOOOSH

DO THEY THINK TO STOP THE SON OF ODIN WITH A SINGLE MISSILE?
20


MY SPEED IS GREATER THAN--
BUT STAY! I DARE NOT FLEE IT!

FOR IF I DO, 'TWILL FALL AND DESTROY YON VILLAGE BELOW!
BUT, IF I DO NOT--
--THEN THOR MUST BE--ITS VICTIM!!
NEXT
THE DEADLY DILEMMA!

THOR
15¢
CC
183
DEC
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
TRAPPED IN DOOMSLAND!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
WITHOUT MY HAMMER-- I AM TRULY LOST!
THOR VS. DOOM-- IT'S DYNAMITE!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

THE WAY IT WAS!

LAST ISSUE, DR. DON BLAKE BEFRIENDED AN INJURED TEENAGER WHO HAD BEEN HURT WHILE PICKETING THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY--

DOWN WITH DR. DOOM

UPON HER RECOVERY, THE GIRL TOLD HOW HER FATHER, THE FAMOUS PROF. PIERRE LAFARGE, HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN LATVERIA BY DR. DOOM AND FORCED TO DESIGN NEW MISSILE SILOS FOR THE ARMOR-CLAD KING!

I'LL DO IT! I'LL DO IT! BUT DO NOT HARM MY DAUGHTER!

HOWEVER, COSETTE LAFARGE FINALLY ESCAPED AND FLED TO AMERICA--TO SEEK HELP! SHE FOUND IT, AS DON BLAKE SET HIMSELF UP AS A DECOY, TO BE CAPTURED BY DR. DOOM AND BROUGHT TO LATVERIA--TO RESCUE PROF. LAFARGE!

HOPING BLAKE COULD CURE THE HIDEOUS FACE DAMAGE THAT CAUSED HIM TO WEAR HIS METAL MASK, DOOM WAS SOON TO LEARN THAT NOT EVEN THE BRILLIANT YOUNG SURGEON COULD HELP HIM!

ENRAGED, THE SINISTER MONARCH HURLED BLAKE INTO A DUNGEON, WHEREUPON HIS PRISONER--

--TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO THE MIGHTY THOR! BUT, AS HE TOOK TO THE SKIES--

A MISSILE DOTH PURSUE ME!

THOUGH MY SPEED BE GREATER, I DARE NOT FLEE--

--FOR IF I DO, 'TWILL FALL AND DESTROY YON VILLAGE BELOW!

BUT, IF I DO NOT--

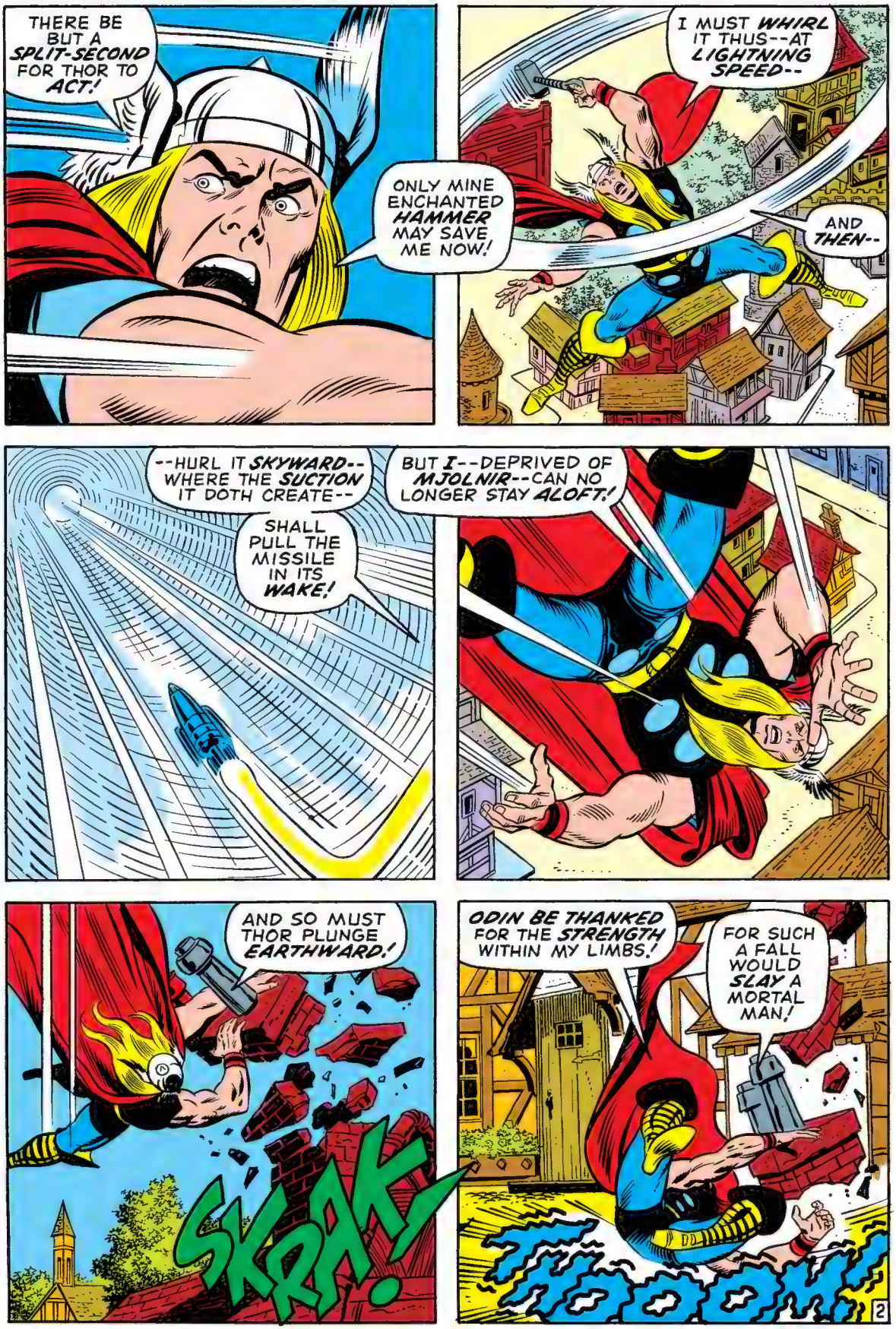
THEN THOR MUST BE ITS VICTIM!

TRAPPED IN DOOMSLAND

STAN LEE and JOHN BUSCEMA

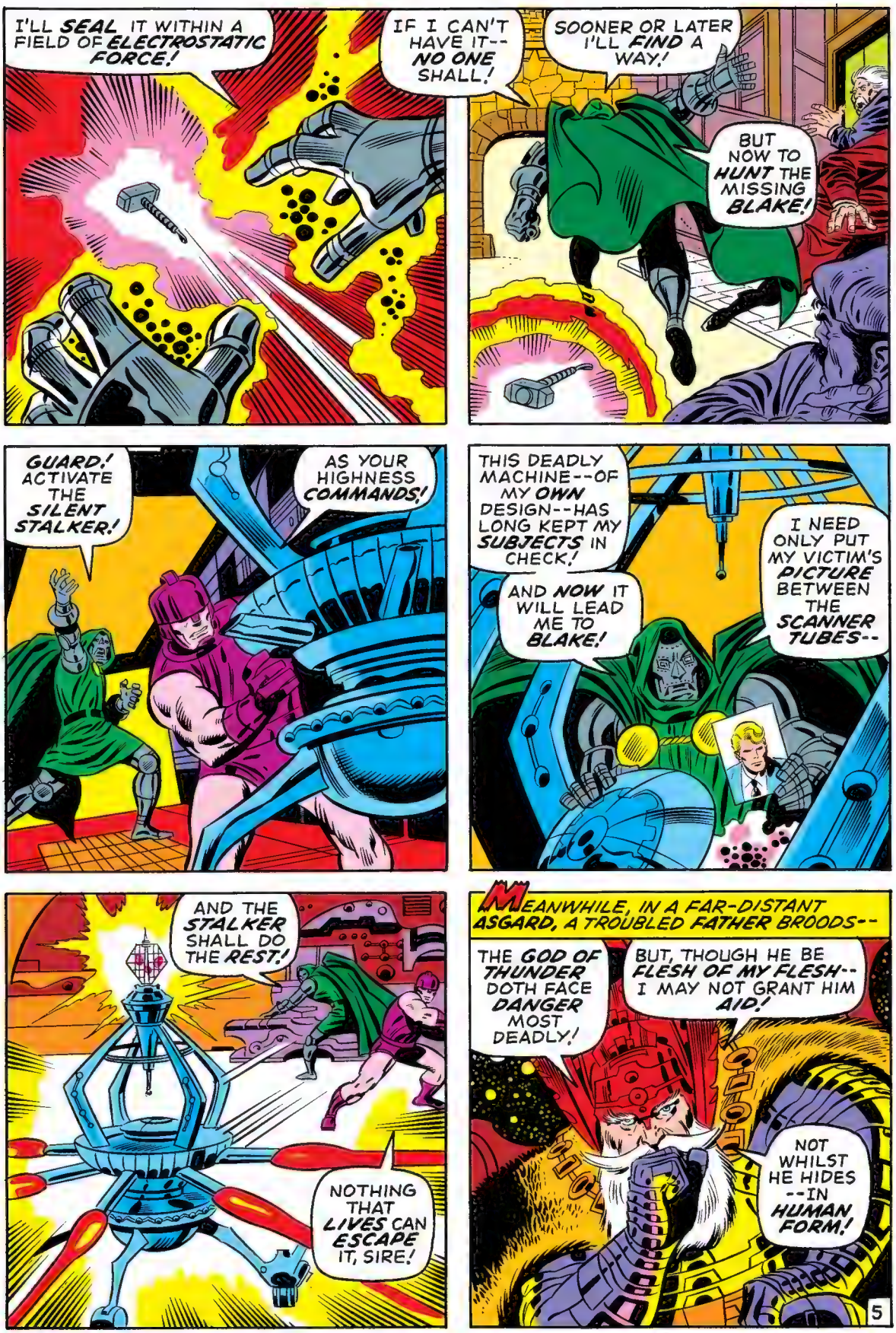
EMBELLISHMENT: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

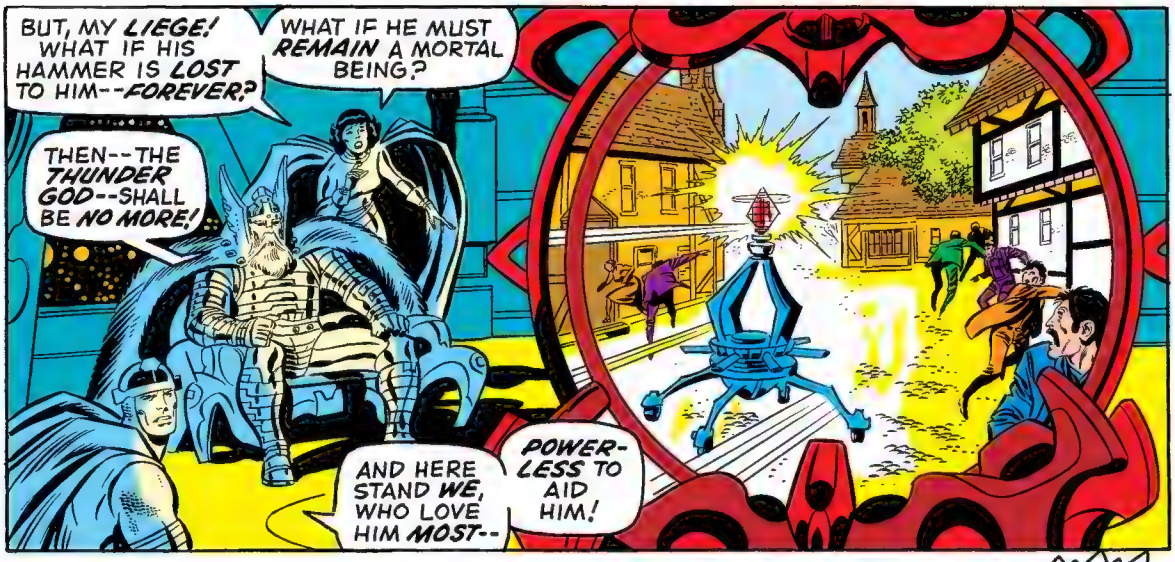
459 Z


THERE BE BUT A SPLIT-SECOND FOR THOR TO ACT!
ONLY MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER MAY SAVE ME NOW!
I MUST WHIRL IT THUS--AT LIGHTNING SPEED--
AND THEN--
--HURL IT SKYWARD-- WHERE THE SUCTION IT DOTH CREATE--
SHALL PULL THE MISSILE IN ITS WAKE!
BUT I--DEPRIVED OF MJOLNIR--CAN NO LONGER STAY ALOFT!
AND SO MUST THOR PLUNGE EARTHWARD!
SKRAK!
ODIN BE THANKED FOR THE STRENGTH WITHIN MY LIMBS!
FOR SUCH A FALL WOULD SLAY A MORTAL MAN!
KOOK!
2

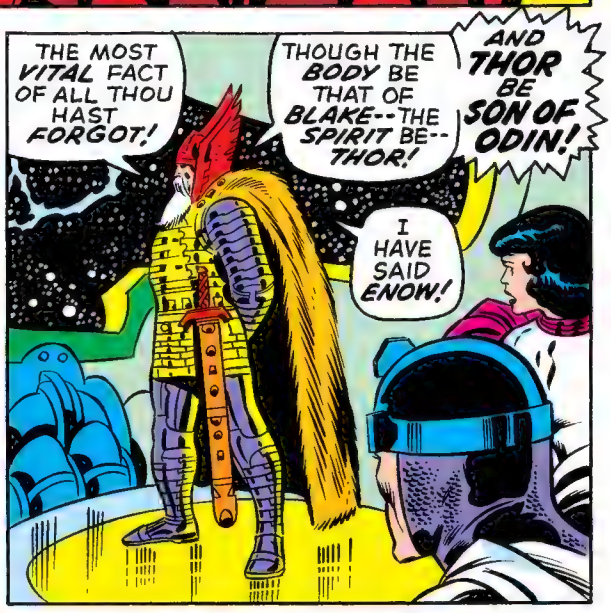
THE MISSILE HATH EXPLODED HARMLESSLY ABOVE!
THE VILLAGE IS SAVED-- AND THOR AS WELL!
BUT MJOLNIR HATH NOT YET RETURNED TO ME!
AND, IF IT BE NOT MINE--FOR SIXTY EARTHLY SECONDS--
THEN MY POWER, TOO, MUST LEAVE ME--
AND WHERE ONCE STOOD THE THUNDER GOD--
--ONLY DONALD BLAKE REMAINS!
I CAN'T STAY HERE-- ALONE AND HELPLESS-- WHERE DOOM MAY FIND ME!
--UNTIL I CAN LEARN WHERE MY HAMMER FELL!
I'VE GOT TO FIND A HIDING PLACE--
MINUTES LATER--IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE--
IT--FELL TO EARTH-- FROM WHERE?
CAREFUL! IT MAY BE A TRAP!
AN EVIL TRICK OF DR. DOOM!
QUIET! HIS EARS ARE EVERY-WHERE!
3

THERE IS NO DENYING! IT IS THE HAMMER OF-- THOR!
LOOK OUT!
ZAT!
LET EVERY MAN NOW STAND HIS GROUND!
OR WOULD YOU HAVE ME THINK YOU FEAR YOUR KINDLY KING?
I MERELY SOUGHT TO PROTECT YOU, ONE AND ALL!
IF THERE IS DANGER HERE--THEN I SHALL FACE IT FIRST!
AND IF THERE'S POWER TO BE GAINED--ONLY DOOM WILL HAVE IT!
WHAT SHABBY INSOLENCE IS THIS?
TRY AS I MAY, I CANNOT MOVE THE HAMMER!
WHATEVER MAY BE HOLDING IT--
--WILL NOT WITHSTAND MY POWER BLASTS!
BUT STILL--EVEN AIDED BY THE POWER OF MY ARMOR-- THE HAMMER DOES NOT BUDGE!
BUT DR. DOOM WILL NOT BE FOILED!
4

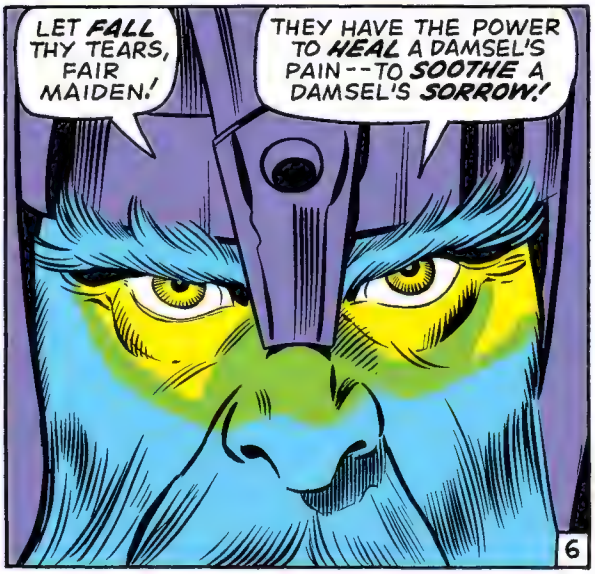

I'LL SEAL IT WITHIN A FIELD OF ELECTROSTATIC FORCE!
IF I CAN'T HAVE IT-- NO ONE SHALL!
SOONER OR LATER I'LL FIND A WAY!
BUT NOW TO HUNT THE MISSING BLAKE!
GUARD! ACTIVATE THE SILENT STALKER!
AS YOUR HIGHNESS COMMANDS!
THIS DEADLY MACHINE--OF MY OWN DESIGN--HAS LONG KEPT MY SUBJECTS IN CHECK!
AND NOW IT WILL LEAD ME TO BLAKE!
I NEED ONLY PUT MY VICTIM'S PICTURE BETWEEN THE SCANNER TUBES--
AND THE STALKER SHALL DO THE REST!
NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN ESCAPE IT, SIRE!
MEANWHILE, IN A FAR-DISTANT ASGARD, A TROUBLED FATHER BROODS--
THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH FACE DANGER MOST DEADLY!
BUT, THOUGH HE BE FLESH OF MY FLESH-- I MAY NOT GRANT HIM AID!
NOT WHILST HE HIDES --IN HUMAN FORM!


BUT, MY LIEGE! WHAT IF HIS HAMMER IS LOST TO HIM--FOREVER?
WHAT IF HE MUST REMAIN A MORTAL BEING?
THEN--THE THUNDER GOD--SHALL BE NO MORE!
AND HERE STAND WE, WHO LOVE HIM MOST--
POWER-LESS TO AID HIM!

AS DONALD BLAKE HE DOTH STAND ALONE--WEAK AND LAME OF LEG!
HE IS TRAPPED IN A LAND WHERE NONE WILL DARE TO AID HIM--FOR FEAR OF DR. DOOM!


THE MOST VITAL FACT OF ALL THOU HAST FORGOT!
THOUGH THE BODY BE THAT OF BLAKE--THE SPIRIT BE--THOR!
AND THOR BE SON OF ODIN!
I HAVE SAID ENOW!

WHY WEEPEST THOU, MY LADY? HATH THOU SO LITTLE FAITH?
ALAS, NOBLE BALDER--'TIS NOT MY FAITH THAT DOTH DESERT ME--
THOUGH I BE DECKED IN WARRIOR'S GARB--MY HEART BETRAYS ME--AS A WOMAN!

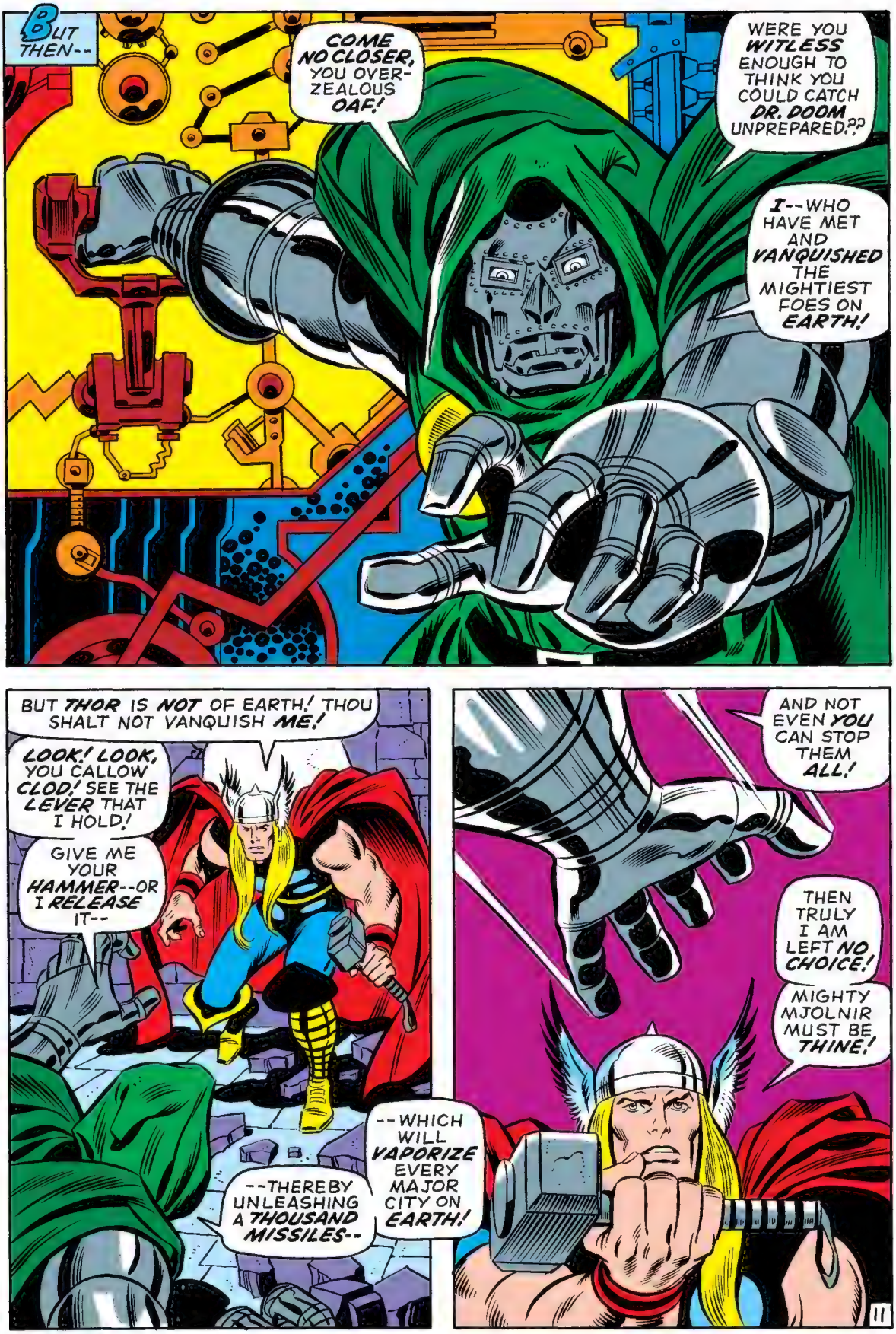

LET FALL THY TEARS, FAIR MAIDEN!
THEY HAVE THE POWER TO HEAL A DAMSEL'S PAIN--TO SOOTHE A DAMSEL'S SORROW!

BUT, BEFORE YOU START THINKING THESE WORDS WERE PENNED BY BILLY GRAHAM, LET'S SEGUE BACK--TO THE TUMULTUOUS LAND BELOW--
STILL NO TRACE OF MY HAMMER!
PERHAPS PROFESSOR LA FARGE CAN HELP ME FIND IT!
HE'S SURE TO BE SOMEWHERE WITHIN THESE LABS!
THERE--AMONGST THAT ELECTRONIC APPARATI--
IT MUST BE HE!
PROFESSOR LA FARGE! THANK HEAVENS I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!
AN INTRUDER! AN AMERICAN!
YOU CAN'T BREAK IN HERE! YOU-- MPPFFF!
QUIET, MAN! IF YOU CRY OUT--I'M DONE FOR!
I'VE COME TO HELP YOU!
HELP ME? HELP ME? YOU FOOL--NO ONE CAN HELP ME NOW!
SUPPOSE I WERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SERVE DR. DOOM ANY MORE!
SUPPOSE I OFFERED YOU-- ESCAPE?
NO! NO! IT'S A TRICK! IT MUST BE A TRICK! DOOM SENT YOU TO TRAP ME!
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME! YOUR DAUGHTER--SHE'S SAFE! DO YOU HEAR--SAFE?
SHE CAN'T BE! SHE CAN'T!
HIS YEARS IN CAPTIVITY-- HAVE MADE HIM TOO SUSPICIOUS!
7

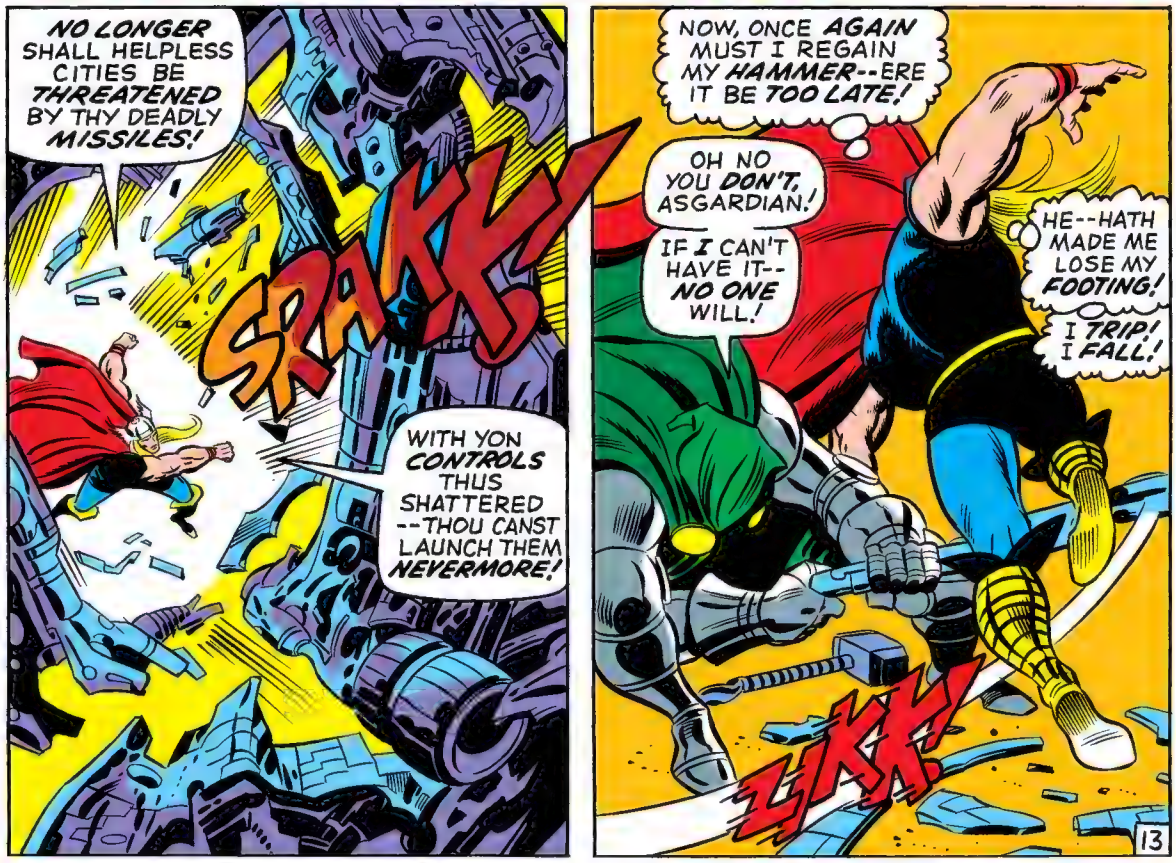
HE'S ON THE VERGE OF HYSTERIA! IF I STAY ANY LONGER--ANYTHING MAY HAPPEN!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! NOT EVEN DOOM CAN FOOL ME! I'M TOO SMART FOR YOU--TOO SMART FOR ALL OF YOU!
YOU'RE RIGHT, PROFESSOR! IT WAS--JUST A TEST!
AND YOU PASSED--WITH FLYING COLORS!
SO I'LL BE LEAVING NOW!
HE'S TOO SCARED--TOO SICK TO HELP ME!
I'VE GOT TO FIND THE HAMMER BY MYSELF!
AND THEN--THOR WILL FIND A WAY TO GET HIM TO FREEDOM!
THEN, AFTER LONG, NERVE-WRACKING MINUTES OF SILENT, STEALTHY SEARCHING--
THE HAMMER! THERE IN THAT COURTYARD!
BUT--WHAT'S THAT AROUND IT?
SOME SORT OF GLITTERING AURA--HUMMING WITH PULSATING FORCE!
IT MUST BE THE WORK OF DOOM!
HE DID IT SO NO ONE ELSE COULD TRY TO LIFT IT!
HE DIDN'T REALIZE MJOLNIR'S MYSTIC SPELL IS ALL THE PROTECTION THAT IT NEEDS!
BUT HOW DO I BREAK THRU THE FORCE FIELD AND SEIZE IT?
THE SHOVEL IN THIS BARN--IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
I'VE GOT TO DIG QUICKLY--NOISILY--AND HOPE DOOM'S GUARDS WILL HEAR!
IT WORKED! I HEAR THEIR FOOTSTEPS!
NOW--IF MY LUCK HOLDS OUT--!
THOK!
KLANG!
THERE! I TOLD YOU I HEARD DIGGING!
SOMEONE HAS TRIED TO GET THE HAMMER!
HE MUST PAY WITH HIS LIFE FOR DARING TO DEFY OUR MONARCH!
8

LOOK! THE JACKET OF THE ESCAPED PRISONER, DR. BLAKE!
HE MUST BE HIDING IN THE HOLE BELOW!
WAS HE FOOL ENOUGH TO THINK HE COULD ESCAPE US SO EASILY?
KRA SP!
LET US ATOMIZE THE AREA!
IT WORKED! THEIR BLASTERS HAVE ENLARGED THE HOLE --DOING MY WORK FOR ME!
NO NEED TO SEARCH FOR HIM! THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH LEFT TO IDENTIFY!
HIS MAJESTY WILL HANDSOMELY REWARD US!
THEY'VE GONE! IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME DAYS TO DIG A HOLE THAT DEEP!
AND NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS--
--IS FOR ME TO GO BELOW!
TAKE IT EASY, DOC-- EASY! ONE MISSTEP COULD RUIN ALL MY PLANNING!
IT'S STILL SMOLDERING --FROM THE HEAT OF THEIR BLASTS!
BUT IT'S COOL ENOUGH ABOVE MY HEAD--FOR ME TO START SCOOPING OUT THIS DIRT!
SKRUNNTCH SKRAK
IT'S ALL THAT SEPARATES ME FROM-- MJOLNIR-- RESTING ABOVE!
9

THERE! THAT'S THE FINAL LOOSE COBBLESTONE! AND NOW--
IT'S GOT TO BE HERE-- SOMEWHERE! I CAN SENSE IT! I CAN FEEL IT!
AND THEN--A SPLIT-SECOND LATER--
MJOLNIR HATH BEEN REGAINED!
MY SON HATH PROVED HIS WORTH!
SO, LET THE MORTAL VANISH--
--THAT THOR MAY LIVE AGAIN!
THE THUNDER GOD MUST FLY ONCE MORE!
--FOR THERE BE WRONGS TO RIGHT-- THERE BE EVIL TO AVENGE!
NOW LET DR. DOOM BEWARE--
--FOR THOR NOW THIRSTS FOR BATTLE!
BK
OW!
10


BUT THEN--
COME NO CLOSER, YOU OVER-ZEALOUS OAF!
WERE YOU WITLESS ENOUGH TO THINK YOU COULD CATCH DR. DOOM UNPREPARED??
I--WHO HAVE MET AND VANQUISHED THE MIGHTIEST FOES ON EARTH!
BUT THOR IS NOT OF EARTH! THOU SHALT NOT VANQUISH ME!
LOOK! LOOK, YOU CALLOW CLOD! SEE THE LEVER THAT I HOLD!
GIVE ME YOUR HAMMER--OR I RELEASE IT--
--THEREBY UNLEASHING A THOUSAND MISSILES--
--WHICH WILL VAPORIZE EVERY MAJOR CITY ON EARTH!
AND NOT EVEN YOU CAN STOP THEM ALL!
THEN TRULY I AM LEFT NO CHOICE!
MIGHTY MJOLNIR MUST BE THINE!
11

I KNOW IT HAS SOME MYSTIC POWER--AND ONCE I SEIZE IT--
THINKEST THOU THE POWER WILT BE THINE?
THEN TAKE IT NOW--AND LET US SEE!
AT LAST I HAVE THE--
WHA--?!!
I CAN'T HOLD IT!
NOT EVEN I--WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
THOOM!
BUT I WON'T GIVE UP! I WON'T! I WON'T!
I HAVE GIVEN THEE THY CHANCE!
NOW 'TIS TIME FOR THOR TO ACT!
12


NO LONGER SHALL HELPLESS CITIES BE THREATENED BY THY DEADLY MISSILES!
SRAKK!
WITH YON CONTROLS THUS SHATTERED --THOU CANST LAUNCH THEM NEVERMORE!
NOW, ONCE AGAIN MUST I REGAIN MY HAMMER--ERE IT BE TOO LATE!
OH NO YOU DON'T, ASGARDIAN!
IF I CAN'T HAVE IT--NO ONE WILL!
HE--HATH MADE ME LOSE MY FOOTING!
I TRIP! I FALL!
LKK
13

IT TOOK ME YEARS TO COMPLETE MY MISSILE COMPLEX!
AND YOU'VE RUINED IT--WITH JUST ONE STROKE!
BUT YOU SHALL PAY FOR THAT MOST THOUGHT-LESS DEED!
AND THE FATEFUL PRICE WILL BE--YOUR LIFE!
KROOM
DESPITE YOUR STRENGTH--DESPITE YOUR ACCURSED POWER--YOU STILL ARE MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD!
ZLAT!
YOU STILL CAN HURT! YOU STILL CAN DIE!
ZLST!
AND ONE THING MORE HAST THOU FORGOT--
THOR STILL CAN FIGHT!
BUT YOU MUST RELY ON STRENGTH ALONE --WHILE I HAVE WEAPONS--ALMOST WITHOUT END!
SUCH AS THE ELECTRO-PARALYZER WITHIN MY METAL GLOVE!
THE SIXTY SECONDS--HAVE ALMOST GONE!
IT--MUST NOT--END THIS WAY--AGAIN!
14

TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
SO LONG AS I GRASP YOU THUS--YOU CANNOT BREAK AWAY!
MY PARALYZER ROOTS YOU TO THE SPOT!
FALL, THUNDER GOD--FALL!
AS ALL MUST DO--WHO DARE DEFY MY MATCHLESS POWER!
HE THINKS I SINK IN BASE DEFEAT!
SKRAK!
BUT I MERELY BEND--TO SEIZE YON STONE--
--AND HURL IT UPWARD --TOPPLING FLOOR AND FOE ALIKE!
BLAST YOU! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME THAT WAY!
ESCAPE? WHAT NEED HATH THOR OF SUCH A WORD!
FOR MJOLNIR ONCE AGAIN IS MINE!
AND NOW--THY BOLTS ARE USELESS!
ZTANG!
I--CAN'T BREAK THRU THE HAMMER'S ARC!
15

I'VE WASTED TIME ENOW ON THEE!
I HAVE NO WISH TO SLAY A BEAST--
'TIS ENOUGH TO SHEAR HIS CLAWS!
HE SOARS TOWARDS THE MISSILE SITE--
AND I AM POWER-LESS TO STOP HIM!
THOUGH THE CONTROL PANEL HATH BEEN TRULY SHATTERED--
--THE DEADLY MISSILES STILL DO STAND--
--EVER POISED TO SPREAD THEIR SEEDS OF CARNAGE!
SO LONG AS THEY EXIST--THE THREAT IS EVER PRESENT!
THUS, THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH DECREED--
THEY SHALL STAND NO MORE!
BUH-KLANG!
16

TOO LONG HAVE WEAPONS ENSLAVED THE EARTH!
TOO LONG HAVE FORCE-- AND FEAR PREVAILED!
NOW LET THERE BE AN END!
RTONNG!
PRINCE OF ASGARD-- IS THY TASK NOW DONE?
FROM BEYOND THE FURTHEST REACH--MY FATHER'S VOICE DOTH SUMMON ME!
NOT YET, MY LIEGE! THERE STILL BE ONE THING MORE!
I BID THEE, THUNDER GOD--TAKE HEED! MY PATIENCE WEARS MOST THIN!
THOU HAST A MISSION-- STRANGE AND DREAD--UPON THE WORLD BEYOND!

HE IS SILENT!
NO LONGER MAY I TARRY!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO REUNITE THE CAPTIVE WITH HIS GRIEVING DAUGHTER!
MORTAL! I HAVE COME TO FREE THEE!
YOU'RE BACK! NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR TALK!
THY CHILD AWAITS THEE-- WITHIN THE SANCTUARY OF AMERICA!
STAY BACK! STAY BACK!
I CANNOT LEAVE! I MUST NOT LEAVE! I WILL NOT LEAVE!
BUT-- WHAT OF COSETTE?
WHAT OF THE CHILD WHOSE HEART DOTH CRY FOR THEE?
DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF HER!
I OWE HER NOTHING-- NOTHING, DO YOU HEAR?
SHE'S JUST A CHILD! WHAT DOES SHE KNOW? WHAT DOES SHE MATTER?
DOOM PROMISED ME A FORTUNE! I WAS TO BE RICH! RICH!
I WILL NOT LOSE IT-- BECAUSE OF YOU!
I'LL SEE YOU DEAD FIRST!
THE MONEY IS ALL THAT MATTERS!
18

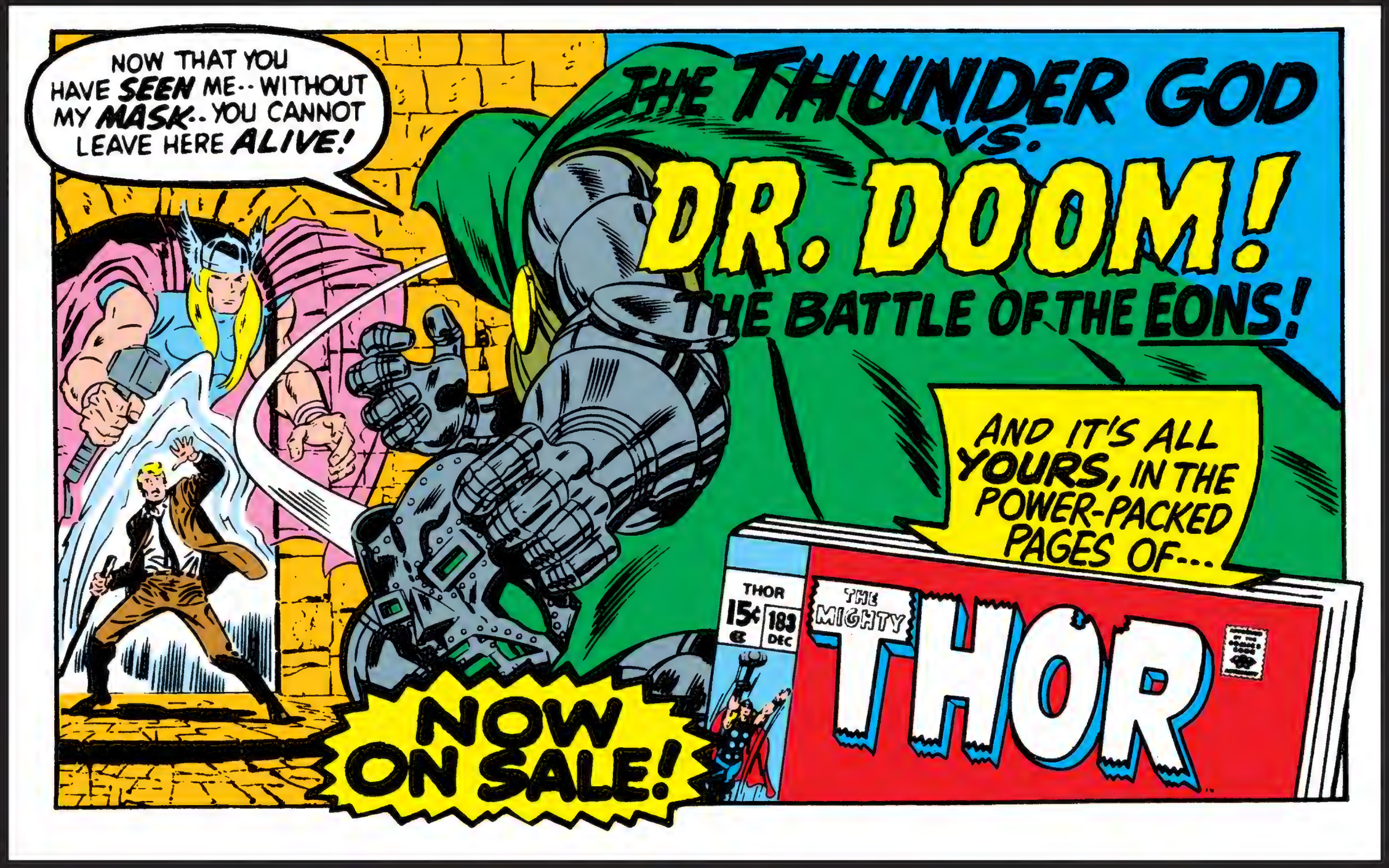
I DON'T CARE ABOUT COSETTE! I DON'T CARE ABOUT MANKIND! YOU MUST NOT ROB ME OF MY MONEY!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!
NO ONE WILL STOP ME! NO ONE! NO ONE!
DOOM DIDN'T KEEP ME A PRISONER!
I WANTED TO STAY! I WANTED TO SERVE HIM!
THY BULLETS CANNOT HARM ME!
BUT THE EVIL IN THY SOUL DOTH NOW FILL MY HEART WITH LOATHING!
THAK!
FTIK!
ZTOK!
BTASK
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS EVIL-- OR LOVE!
NOTHING MATTERS BUT ME! I MUST-- UNNHH!
THINE OWN BULLET DIDST RICHOCHET-- AND STRIKE THEE!
IF ONLY--THAT MEDDLESOME COSETTE-- HAD NOT SENT YOU--
--I'D HAVE BEEN RICH ...RICH... UHHHHH...
'TIS ENDED! HE IS SLAIN!
BUT, HOW DO I TELL A GRIEVING CHILD--?
THUNDER GOD--WAIT! WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!
MAYHAP WE DO--
BUT IT SHALL BE ANOTHER TIME!
YOU INTEREST ME NO LONGER!
COWARD! YOU ARE AFRAID TO FIGHT ME!
BUT WE'LL MEET AGAIN!! I SWEAR IT!
19

A SHORT TIME LATER--
MY FATHER! WHAT OF MY FATHER? TELL ME--QUICKLY--IS HE SAFE?
THIS MOMENT HAVE I DREADED!
AND YET--THE WORDS MUST NOW BE SPOKE!
PREPARE THYSELF, CHILD--
THY FATHER IS--DEAD!
'TIS TRULY SAID AND DONE! BUT NOW--
--MY WORDS MUST EASE HER GRIEF!
HE DIDST PERISH WHILE FIGHTING--FOR THAT WHICH HE BELIEVED!
AND THE FINAL WORDS HE SPOKE--WERE OF THEE!
THANK YOU! OH, THANK YOU!
I'LL--ALWAYS CHERISH--WHAT YOU HAVE JUST TOLD ME!
NOW, 'TIS TIME THAT I DEPART!
WAIT NOT FOR DR. DONALD BLAKE! NONE CAN SAY WHEN HE WILL RETURN!
FOR, IF THE WORLD BEYOND PROVE MY UNDOING--
IF THOR SHOULD FALL --TO RISE NO MORE--
--THEN BLAKE AS WELL MUST SHARE HIS FATE!
NEXT
THE WORLD BEYOND!
20

Cover from *Tales of Asgard* #1
(reprinting *Journey Into Mystery* #97-106)

The Mighty Thor #175 unused cover art
by Jack Kirby & John Verpoorten

The Mighty Thor #183 house ad
(from January 1971 titles)


NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ME-- WITHOUT MY MASK.. YOU CANNOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
THE THUNDER GOD VS. DR. DOOM!
THE BATTLE OF THE EONS!
AND IT'S ALL YOURS, IN THE POWER-PACKED PAGES OF...
THOR 15¢ 183 DEC
THE MIGHTY THOR
NOW ON SALE!

BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust out into the post-Depression wartime economy. Through family connections, he was able to land a job with Martin Goodman's comic-book publishing start-up, Timely Comics, as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so when his first professional writing job came, in the form of a humble two-page text story in *Captain America Comics* #3, he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

But the world of comics managed to keep Stan Lee constantly employed. His proficiency on the job got him the position of managing editor at an extremely young age. He graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories in *All-Winners*, *USA Comics*, and other Timely anthologies. His tenure in the '50s saw him expand the company (now called Atlas Comics) output to include more genre experimentation, with westerns, war, horror and crime comics.

All this activity was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists topped off by the formidable talents of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to do something to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Stan figured he would co-opt the successful super-hero revival at competitor DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Stan's Marvel Age heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people, forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just like the average person might.

Stan's innovation sent shock waves through the comics industry, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold: unlike other fads of the time, it wasn't letting go. Under his direction, creations like Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Stan developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus exploding the story possibilities for the kids who became eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Stan also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads, and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Stan wrote virtually every comic that appeared from Marvel during the 1960s. But when he was promoted to Publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Stan has returned to write scripts for the odd single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. To this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 into a gritty upbringing on the streets of New York's Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the more familiar name of Jack Kirby, but his experiences on the street would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations like him would never dream of going.

After some early strip work helped get his name out to prospective employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip, and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed *Captain America* for Timely Comics, and Jack immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon & Kirby were working with National Publications, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like *Sandman* and *Manhunter*. Like many of his peers, he served honorably in WWII, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

In the '50s, Jack returned to comics, helping establish the romance genre with its first title, *Young Romance Comics*. More genre work followed for Timely/Atlas, with a prolific output that covered western, war, and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Jack brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled bombast and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters he created.

The King's way of doing things was so popular that it set the tone for many of Stan Lee's editorial decisions throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated onto books by drawing over Jack's layouts. Jack left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling the scripting chores as well as the art duties. Jack's "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the '70s to lend his unbridled imagination to a new cast

of creations: *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur*, and *Machine Man*. In addition, he returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Jack continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

JOHN BUSCEMA

Though known primarily for his long tenure as one of Marvel Comics' most prolific pencilers, John Buscema began his celebrated career at the age of twenty-one with Timely Comics. After Timely closed up its in-house bullpen and sent most freelancers chasing down new art assignments, John pursued comics work for a time before he bagged the comics scene altogether and went to work in advertising in 1958.

When he finally returned to comics, however, he did so with a vengeance. Stan Lee recruited him away from the field of advertising and quickly ensconced him into the upper ranks of Marvel artists. Picking up where *Avengers* mainstay Don Heck left off, "Big John" settled into a long run of his own, showcasing the exploits of Earth's Mightiest Heroes. The much-anticipated *Silver Surfer* series was launched with John at the helm, and top-shelf books like *Fantastic Four* and *Thor* were entrusted to his care after Jack Kirby left Marvel for DC Comics.

John's bold, muscular artwork commanded the comic book page with realistic figurework that represented the next evolutionary step in post-Kirby Marvel Comics style. The respect accorded him within Marvel as an artist's artist was of such renown that he literally wrote the book on it, composing *How To Draw the Marvel Way*, the classic "how to" book in comic-book illustration.

He worked from the '70s through the '90s on nearly every title in the Marvel stable, including his personal favorite title *Conan the Barbarian* with Roy Thomas, providing steady work throughout his career. He retired from regular work in 1996, but returned every now and then to the comics scene until he passed away after a battle with cancer in 2002.

NEAL ADAMS

Neal Adams' contribution to comics can't be understated. He exploded the possibilities of the medium in the late '60s, blending traditional elements of comic art with a newfound emphasis on naturalism, and bringing an almost photo-realistic manner to the art of late '60s comics. While not erasing or replacing the contributions of pure comic art like Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, his work proved so popular with fans that it created more room at the table for artists striving to craft as much realism as the crude technology of comics printing would allow.

After being turned away at DC Comics in 1959, Neal undertook drawing *Ben Casey*, a weekly syndicated strip featuring the soapy exploits of a medical doctor. With approximately five years developing his craft under his belt—and being creatively stifled by the daily strip medium—Adams took another crack at breaking into comics with work for *Creepy* and *Eerie* magazines.

Finally, Neal got hired on at DC Comics. Though Adams would later become the fans' choice as preeminent Batman artist, his first appearance in *Detective Comics* wasn't drawing the Dark Knight—it was providing pencils for the Elongated Man backup story! That same month, he also started drawing Deadman in the pages of *Strange Adventures*, which stands as the first significant entry into his memorable canon of work.

The next entry would come at Marvel, where he purposely took on the publisher's worst-selling hero title, *X-Men*. Neal and writer Roy Thomas' creative reinvigoration of the title made shockwaves throughout the industry. Although they weren't able to save the series from cancellation, it certainly went out with a bang.

His next major contribution to DC Comics was *Green Lantern/ Green Arrow*, his collaboration with writer Denny O'Neil that pitted the two heroes against the various social ills of the day including racism, overpopulation and pollution. For Marvel, Neal rendered four issues of *The Avengers* "Kree/Skrull War" storyline.

It was his work on Batman, though, that made him a comic-art superstar. His delineations of the Dark Knight decisively brought the character back to his origins as a criminal-hunting predator of the night, and after the camp treatment of the preceding years, that is saying something! Over the next four years, Neal drew countless pages and covers for *Detective* and *Batman*.

In the '80s, Neal launched Continuity Associates, creating content for the advertising, film and comics worlds, including the comic series *Ms. Mystic*, *Megalith* and *Armor*. Neal continues to be active in the comics scene, furthering advocacy for creators, and penciling select projects.

Biographical material researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY

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THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-9
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-6

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOL. 1

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-3

THOR
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181
OCT
THE MIGHTY
THOR
NO ONE CAN STOP ME! I HAVE POWER ENOW TO RULE THE WORLD!
CLEAR THE U.N.! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! IT'S GOD VS. GOD!
YOU'LL NEVER PREVAIL! NOT WHILE ONE ASGARDIAN LIVES!
ONE GOD MUST FALL!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

PRINTED IN CHINA

MARVEL